

## IAEA to restore Israel cooperation

VIENNA (AP) — Political leaders of the U.N. nuclear monitoring organisation decided Friday to restore full technical cooperation with Israel despite objections by Iran and Arab states. The decision infuriated the Iranian delegation, which demanded a roll-call vote on the issue at the close of the weeklong annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But Friday's decision to restore such aid is largely symbolic because Israel, a developed state with advanced nuclear capabilities, most likely would not be eligible for any. It is, however, an important psychological victory for Israel, especially in light of recent progress towards a Middle East peace settlement. IAEA member states voted to revoke nuclear technical assistance to Israel after Israeli jets destroyed an Iraqi nuclear plant in 1981 shortly before it was to start operating. Qatar, Lebanon, Syria, Libya and Jordan joined Iran in objecting but did not demand a roll-call vote. Islamic states have used past annual conference as a forum to demand that Israel open its nuclear program to outside scrutiny. Israel has said it favours declaring the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons, but only in the context of an overall peace settlement with stringent mutual verification guarantees.

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## Christopher upbeat on Syria and Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Friday he would make one and possibly two trips to the Middle East, in October because Syria and Israel are serious about concluding a peace accord.

The two sides are deadlocked on how much territory Israel would relinquish on the strategic Golan Heights and what kind of peace Syria would provide in return. But Mr. Christopher registered optimism in an exchange with reporters.

"I think a trip is well-justified at the present time," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa will come here Oct. 5-6 to see Mr. Christopher. Last week, Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's senior policy adviser on the Middle East, held talks in Syria and Israel.

Mr. Christopher said Mr. Ross's reports made him feel the journey would be worthwhile.

He said he would go to Israel and Syria, as well as Egypt and possibly Jordan, in the second week of October — he said the exact date was not set — and might return at the end of the month as part of another trip that will take him to Casablanca, Morocco, for an economic summit meeting of Middle East and North African countries.

Mr. Christopher, keeping close tabs on Middle East diplomacy even while subordinates grapple with some other top world problems, has been in the region four times since May.

Syria and Israel are considering an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic relations with Syria, but the terms remain unsettled after years of bargaining.

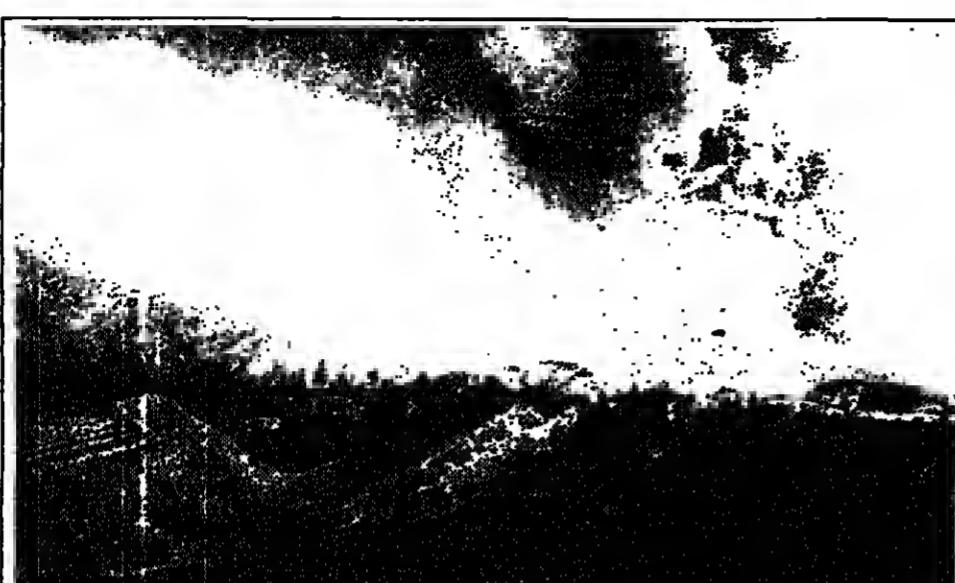
Next week, Mr. Sharaa, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Christopher will all be in New York attending the U.N. General Assembly. Diplomatic sources said there was no sign the Israeli and Syrian officials would meet directly.

Syria broke off talks with Israel last February, but has been swapping ideas on a peace treaty with Israel through Mr. Christopher and other U.S. intermediaries.

An official Syrian newspaper on Friday criticised the Middle East peace efforts in the Middle East, saying Washington should play a more active role.

"The gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions will remain wide as long as the Israelis believe their occupation of Arab territories is

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VOLCANO ERUPTS: An aircraft sits on the runway of Papua New Guinea's Rabaul airport Friday. Four people in ash (see page 4) (AFP photo)

## Jordan seeks equal access to economic dividends of peace

By P. V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*



Rima Khalaf Huneidi

AMMAN — Jordan's option to accept a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is indeed a strategic political decision, but the Kingdom also needs an equal opportunity access to the economic fruits of peace if it were to maintain the state of peace and stability in the region, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Huneidi said Friday.

The Kingdom, which has always borne the brunt of all conflicts in the Middle East, paid a heavy price for no fault of its own, the minister said, adding that Jordan's total losses over the decades were estimated at \$16 billion.

"We fully comprehend the intricate relationship between peace and development," Dr. Huneidi told a "Peace Economy Business Roundtable" in New York. "Without peace, the development potential cannot be realised; but at the same time, peace cannot be sustained without equitable development."

It also means dealing effectively with the legacies of the past... not only the economic burdens of debt and serious human dislocations but also the prejudices and practices that have developed over five decades of hostilities," Dr. Huneidi said in her speech, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

"Jordan, by all standards, was not the least to suffer, neither from the devastating wars and their tragic consequences, nor from the pre-

(Continued on page 7)

## U.S. wants junta to leave Haiti

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. officials kept up the pressure on Haiti's military rulers Friday to leave the country after they step down from office, despite their insistence on staying.

Mr. Christopher said Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and associates will be stepping down by Oct. 15, the deadline reached in an agreement struck Sunday by a delegation to Haiti led by former President Jimmy Carter.

"We also think that they will probably want to leave the country after (exiled President Jean-Bertrand) Aristide comes back and I still think that may happen — that would be our preferred outcome...." Mr. Christopher said on NBC's "Today" programme.

Gen. Cedras has said he will not leave the country and that such a possibility was not discussed in negotiations between Mr. Carter and the military rulers who ousted

Mr. Aristide in 1991.

The deal averted an invasion of Haiti by U.S.-led military forces which later landed without resistance.

U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright echoed Mr. Christopher's position that Gen. Cedras, Haiti's strongman police chief Lieutenant Colonel Michel Francois and Brigadier General Phillippe Biambry should exit Haiti.

"We still think for all practical purposes they ought to and will be leaving the country," Ms. Albright said on ABC's "Good Morning America" programme.

Gen. Biambry also has not only insisted he will live in Haiti after the deadline but, according to Mr. Carter, has threatened suicide rather than be forced from the Caribbean island.

Mr. Carter, who was accompanied to Haiti by retired General Colin Powell and Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, said Thursday that the group never said the generals will leave.

He also said the first Haitian refugees will be shipped back to Haiti on Monday from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

"Already the situation on the ground has become calmer and more peaceful," Mr. Clinton said at a bill-signing ceremony at the agriculture department.

He said the 1,000 U.S. military police in Haiti, which were beginning patrols Friday with Haitian security forces, were there "to keep a close watch on the police and to see there is professional action there with restraint."

The landing of U.S. forces in Haiti to restore democracy was marred almost immediately by the heating death of a demonstrator by Haitian police. U.S. troops watched as the protesters were dispersed.

The administration was embarrassed when Haitian soldiers and police used clubs and rifle butts to attack crowds of people who had been held back by police. The sources said Jordan is aware of the Europeans' unhappiness with the marginalisation of the

(Continued on page 7)

"Our delegation has never said that we think the generals will leave," Mr. Carter told NBC.

"In fact, Gen. Biambry told Powell, and I overheard it, that he would commit suicide before he would be forced out of this country," he added.

On the same ABC programme, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti William Swing said from Port-au-Prince it would be preferable for the military rulers to leave the island after Aristide returned.

Asked whether Gen. Cedras' refusal to get out is merely a hustler, Mr. Swing said that "it is certainly his public position... it certainly is our wish and our desire that he leave Haiti after that time, and I believe he will find it in his interest to do so."

President Bill Clinton said Friday steps to curb police abuse in Haiti were working and a deployment of U.S. military police and a weapons-buying programme should help ease the violence further.

The sources said Jordan is aware of the Europeans' unhappiness with the marginalisation of the

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## King reiterates confidence in Majali and government

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has reaffirmed his confidence in the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and expressed hope that rumours and unfounded reports about an imminent change of government would end.

"I would like to reconfirm my absolute confidence in Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as I did when Jordan started its moves towards the peace process, when Dr. Majali headed the Jordanian delegation to the talks," King Hussein said at a meeting held Thursday at the Royal Court and attended by representatives of the official information media and the press.

"When we decided to enter the peace process and to form an umbrella for the Palestinians to join the talks, we searched for the right person who could shoulder this difficult task in the new battle of peace. Our choice was Dr. Majali, who became head of the Jordanian delegation shouldering this serious responsibility," King Hussein said.

"We are still pursuing the path of peace and Dr. Majali as prime minister and his team as well as the Jordanian negotiators are all shouldering their tasks with loyalty and keen on serving their country and nation," King Hussein added.

"Dr. Majali is now prime minister and is my first adviser while his Cabinet members are all ministers of the King and so any government reshuffle pertains to me and to them as well. So we wish to put an end to rumours and tales because our confidence in the prime minister is absolute and we wish him success in his endeavours," King Hussein said.

Praising the prime minister as brave, courageous and candid, the King said: "No one is perfect and we all accept remarks and criticism and try to find appropriate solutions for all problems."

King Hussein expressed hope that the government would continue to acquire all backing on the part of all so that it can achieve success.

Referring to public administration reform, the King said that the government was aiming to attain the most appropriate and efficient

level of performance by the public administration services.

"We have sought a proper mechanism to achieve that goal, especially at the higher levels, which we hope will not remain exposed to change except whenever that is absolutely necessary so that consistent work can be maintained and pursued," the King said.

"In view of the changes expected in the pattern of life in Jordan we are keen on maintaining an impeccable image of our country, and so we are careful not to allow certain parties or elements to enjoy advantages and opportunities at the expense of the community as a whole," he added.

"To achieve this goal," the King said, he decided on the formation of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, which, he said, is not to compete with the government's work. He said that there are some elements which tend to adversely affect the executive authority's activities and to impede any progress.

"Any government change or reshuffle is totally left to the King, who is the head of

and it is incumbent on everyone to know his or her limits and not to infringe on the rights of others," said King Hussein.

"We wish well for everybody in the Arab World, but we cannot help following our own policies and methods to attain our objectives."

The peace process, King Hussein said, has been proceeding well. "Contrary to what has been reported that there has been no progress, I believe we have covered good ground," King Hussein said. He noted that Jordan had insisted from the start that all outstanding issues should be discussed "until we reach a satisfactory result."

Hoping that more progress would be achieved the King said: "We hope to regain our rights in our lands and our waters and achieve the aspirations of the nation in a comprehensive peace."

Earlier, the prime minister denied rumours about an imminent change of government as totally unfounded.

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(Continued on page 7)

## Princess Basma urges world support for Mideast peace

NEW YORK (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has called on the world nations to mobilise their energies and capabilities to support peace as they did in supporting wars.

In an address delivered Thursday before the seventh annual conference of the DPI/NGO conference held at the United Nations here, Princess Basma said the peoples of the Middle East are now aspiring eagerly to enter the new era of peace.

"I come from a region that has been the generator of great ideas and noble principles. Yet it is almost a region that has rarely enjoyed comprehensive peace. We, of the

region, therefore, especially appreciate the theme of this conference, which is a manifestation of the common will of the international community, represented by the United Nations, to enhance the role of the peoples in peace building," the Princess told the conference, held under the title "We the Peoples: Building Peace."

"Previously, nations and people alike, engaged themselves in military preparedness, and it is appropriate now that we are on the threshold of the twenty-first century that the U.N. is trying to shift the emphasis to peace preparedness by engaging the peoples of the

world," Princess Basma added, noting that the U.N. Charter includes among its major objectives the maintenance of peace and security, and the promotion of economic development and asserting that there can be no lasting peace without development and that development cannot become a reality without security and stability.

Pointing out that NGOs have been playing a role in alleviating poverty and unemployment, she called for expanding this role through the support of the international community and international organisations.

She also underlined that the eradication of poverty

"and thus the reinforcement of the dignity of our peoples should be the focus of our efforts. Labour and dignity go hand in hand. This is why the right to work should be an inalienable right of all individuals.

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## EU studying major Jordan programme

By Aymen Al Safadi

*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — European nations are discussing a programme of economic and political support for Jordan and diplomatic sources said the initiative could be announced in the "very near future."

The sources told the Jordan Times that in addition to helping the Kingdom and encouraging its role in the peace process, the Europeans are taking the initiative to reassert their role in the region after it was "marginalised" by their absence from the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel.

The sources said the Europeans feel uncomfortable with the growing American economic and political presence in the area at the expense of Europe, which has traditionally had strong political and economic ties with the countries of the region.

He also said the first Haitian refugees will be shipped back to Haiti on Monday from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

"Already the situation on the ground has become calmer and more peaceful," Mr. Clinton said at a bill-signing ceremony at the agriculture department.

The landing of U.S. forces in Haiti to restore democracy was marred almost immediately by the heating death of a demonstrator by Haitian police. U.S. troops watched as the protesters were dispersed.

The sources said Jordan is aware of the Europeans' unhappiness with the marginalisation of the

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## Jordan defends historic role in Jerusalem shrines

By Rama Sabagh

*Reuter*

AMMAN — Jordan said on Friday it would not relinquish supervision of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the occupied territories at this early stage of Palestinian self-rule.

The sources say, however, that the multilateral talks are being seen as "academic debates" that are producing no results, unlike the bilateral negotiations which are registering tangible progress and thus preparing the ground for us to "take the biggest share of the economic pie" in the area in terms of winning the contracts and business deals that will be offered

# Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1994

## U.N. warns Somalis to make peace, but they continue fight

NAIROBI (R) — The U.N. chief of peacekeeping, Kofi Annan, has warned Somalia's warlords that unless they made moves towards peace "almost immediately" the world body would pull out of the chaotic country.

At the same time Somali militias, oblivious of growing signs that the world could soon wash its hands of the African country, battled each other near the main U.N. base in Mogadishu with mortars, machineguns and grenades.

"I wish to warn all Somalis, especially their faction leaders, that neither the Security Council nor the international community in general is prepared to brook any further delays in moving forward the political process," Under-Secretary General for peacekeeping Kofi Annan told reporters in Nairobi.

If the somali warlords failed to show they were going to form a broad-based government sov., Mr. Annan said: "The Security council will have no alternative but to bring UNOSOM's (U.N. Operation in Somalia) to an end."

Mr. Annan was speaking after a four-day inspection of the \$1.5 billion-a-year U.N. operation in Somalia which the Security Council promises to review at the end of September.

He was accompanied on the visit, which included talks

with Somali warlords, by a military team to look at the future operations of the 18,800-strong Asian and African U.N. force.

The mission also briefly visited the U.N. peacekeeping army in Rwanda.

Senior U.N. sources said the Security Council was likely to delay a resolution on the Somalia mission until the end of October to see whether the warlords would succeed in getting a new reconciliation conference started in Mogadishu.

"If they are serious I would expect them (the faction leaders) to form an interim national government by the end of October," Mr. Annan said.

Privately, UNOSOM officials predict that little will come of the warlords' promises. At massive cost, the Somalis have attended several conferences in the past which have resulted in accords that collapsed within weeks.

They add that Mohammad Farah Aideed, the militia chieftain who battled U.S.-led forces in Mogadishu last year, is leading efforts to organise the conference — which could end up being a council of his allies to the exclusion of his enemies.

This could spark worse fighting that there already is in many parts of Somalia, which has been carved up by clan militias since dictator

Mohammad Siad Barre was ousted in January 1991.

The U.S., despairing of its efforts to restore order to Somalia after spearheading the military operation to end a famine which killed 300,000 in 1992, evacuated its embassy in Mogadishu on Sept. 15.

With the new U.N. peacekeeping mission elsewhere in the world such as Rwanda, and with Haiti about to be launched pressure is mounting on UNOSOM to get results or pull out long before the mandate finally expires next March.

On Security Council orders the UNOSOM army is being reduced to 15,000 troops. Peacekeepers have this month abandoned most garrisons apart from the beachheads on which they first landed in December 1992.

General Maurice Baril, military adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, was accompanying Mr. Annan and expressed concern over the safety of peacekeepers if they had to withdraw — an operation that the U.N. may need U.S. assistance to achieve.

A Pakistani soldier was wounded by a stray bullet during the inter-clan fighting in Mogadishu on Wednesday. Some 25 U.N. soldiers have been killed in militia attacks since March — a total of about 130 U.N. and U.S. peacekeepers have lost their lives in Somalia.

## Israel, PLO to discuss next phase of self-rule this week

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will launch negotiations on the next stage of Palestinian self-rule in Cairo on Wednesday, a senior official said Friday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman would say only that the date was set "in principle."

Israel wants the talks to focus on the expansion of self-rule on the West Bank, known as "early empowerment," spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP. "After this is sorted out, we can talk about elections and redeployment."

The talks remain in the framework of the declaration of principles for Palestinian self-government, which called for redeployment of Israeli troops from built-up areas by the eve of elections, originally due on July 13.

Israel handed over responsibility for education on the West Bank in August, but has demanded that the Palestinians have a budget to cover operating costs before developing power over taxation, tourism, social welfare and health.

According to the senior official, who refused to be named, Israel may redeploy only gradually and selectively on the West Bank in a plan

dubbed unofficially "Nablus or Jenin first."

The opening stage of autonomy concerned "Gaza and Jericho first" where the PLO took control from May 4, eight months after signing the declaration in Washington.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accused Israel of deliberately delaying elections to avoid the redeployment which is due to take place on the eve of voting.

Israel blames the Palestinians for the problem saying it must start collecting taxes to pay for the spread of autonomy and tackle Islamic resistance.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cast strong doubts on the possibility of organising the elections at the start of November, a new target date set by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Some of Mr. Arafat's ministers admit that holding a vote even before the end of the year will prove a major challenge.

PLO sources said meanwhile Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat plan to meet in the Gaza Strip on Sunday to discuss Palestinian elections.

On Monday Mr. Arafat called on the European Union to help organise Palestinian elections at a meeting

with the consuls of Spain, France and Greece and a EU representative.

Mr. Arafat handed the officials a letter addressed to EU leaders, explaining the problems he was facing organising elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Arafat said the elections should be held in November.

In another development, Mr. Arafat, in a gesture to his main political rivals, attended prayers for the first time on Friday at a mosque controlled by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in Gaza.

Mr. Arafat, accompanied by the commander of the Palestinian police in the self-rule area of Gaza, Major General Nasr Yousef, listened to a sermon by Mahmoud Al Zahhar, a leading Hamas member, at the Al Rahma Mosque.

"Now he is doing the natural thing by praying here, and Abu Ammar (Arafat's nom de guerre) has to treat all Palestinians equally," Sheikh Zahhar told Reuters after the weekly noon prayer.

Mr. Arafat's move came two days after he summoned Mr. Zahhar and another Hamas leader for the first official meeting since he returned to take permanent residence in Gaza in July.

## Armed struggle needed to free disputed provinces — Yemeni group

SANA (Agencies) — A newly-formed group has called for an armed struggle to liberate two provinces claimed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The National Front for the Liberation of Najran and Asir provinces, announcing its creation in a statement dated from Abha in southern Saudi Arabia and sent to AFP here, called for "an armed struggle," to free these territories.

It urged "men enamoured of peace and human rights organisations to support the sons of the Yemeni people in Najran and Asir in their just struggle for independence and liberation from the hegemony of the Al Saud regime."

The movement "is committed to fight with all means to end the Saudi occupation of the provinces" taken from Yemen, the statement said.

The statement did not refer to Jizan province, which with Najran and Asir, is the focus of a border dispute between Saudi and Riyadh.

The three provinces are currently controlled by the Saudi government under the 1934 Taif accord signed by both capitals.

Sanaa, which claims these provinces as its own, said that the accord expired in September 1992 and is opposed to it being renewed.

A series of meetings in the last two years between experts from both sides has failed to resolve the problem.

Relations between the two neighbours, which had been tense since the 1991 Gulf war, took a turn for the worse with Saudi Arabia's alleged support for the southern separatists in the May-July civil war in Yemen.

Agents for the London-based Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Unit, which monitors shipping around the world, said the Arktis Pioneer sailed from Port Elizabeth Aug. 25.

They said they did not know if the ship was carrying arms and had no other details on its movements.

Torben Palle Hansen of the Copenhagen-based Elite Shipping Co., said the freighter's cargo was destined for what was formerly the Yemen.

Arms ship in Red Sea

A Danish cargo ship carrying weapons from South Africa wandered around the Red Sea Wednesday for the third day after Yemeni authorities refused to allow it to dock, officials here said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Arktis Pioneer, identified by Lloyd's of London as a 2,815-tonne bulk carrier, was turned away when it tried to enter the port of Hodeidah Monday.

"Yemen did not ask for that shipment of weapons, and Yemen sternly refuses to deal with ships carrying arms shipments from South Africa which was under international sanctions," said one of the officials.

They said the Arktis Pioneer was "still there in the Red Sea waiting for instructions" from its agents or owners.

The shipment from South Africa's Armscor company of Pretoria contained mostly Russian-made AK-47 rifles, company spokesman Bertus Cilliers told the Citizen newspaper of Johannesburg Tuesday.

Armsco said the arms were destined for Lebanon, but gave no details.

South Africa's Rapport newspaper reported that the weapons were being sold to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a clandestine deal.

The vice-president of the Moldovan parliament, Nikolai Andronik, admitted that these planes, which Moldova inherited from the former Soviet Union, were sold to Aden.

Moldova did not need these fighters but it did need money for its economic reforms, Mr. Andronik said, stressing that "all countries sell weapons, including our neighbours."

Mr. Andronik did not say how much the aircraft had been sold for, but according to Moldovan press reports the sale of the four MIG-29s and seven multiple rocket launchers earned the former Soviet republic some \$40 million.

They said they did not know if the ship was carrying arms and had no other details on its movements.

The sale took place when the former South Yemen, a staunch Soviet ally for 25 years until the two Yemens reunited in 1990, was fighting the separatist war against the North, which the North won in July.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### China vice premier to visit Israel

BEIJING (R) — China said on Friday that Vice Premier Zou Jiabao would visit Israel next month, the highest ranking official to go there since diplomatic relations were established in January, 1992. The Xinhua news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Mr. Zou will visit Israel, Portugal and Denmark from Oct. 4 to 18. It gave no more details. Chinese customs figures show trade with Israel in the first seven months of 1994 at \$116.81 million, an increase of 85.7 per cent over the same 1993 period.

### 10 hurt in Tel Aviv bank blaze

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A fire on the third floor of a bank headquarters in the heart of Tel Aviv left a woman seriously burned and another nine people injured on Friday, the authorities said. The blaze started in a canteen where building work was underway, said deputy fire chief Eytan Cohen. It took two hours to bring the fire under control and huge traffic jams built up after the fire brigade sealed off the area. The woman suffered 30 per cent burns but most others affected by smoke inhalation.

### Spain court formally accuses Kassar

MADRID (R) — Spain's high court has formally accused Syrian Monzer Al Kassar of piracy in connection with the 1985 hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro, during which an elderly American was killed. In a written report on a year-long investigation into Mr. Kassar's alleged involvement in the hijacking, published on Wednesday, the deputy prosecutor demanded 29 years in jail for the Syrian, said to be one of the world's most important arms dealers. This is the first time since his 1992 arrest in Spain on arms-related charges that Mr. Kassar, who is currently free on bail, has been formally linked to the Achille Lauro hijacking. The report goes forward to a high court judge who decides if and when a case should come to trial. The deputy prosecutor accused Mr. Kassar of financing the hijacking, which was carried out by Palestinian guerrillas.

### Thai ex-police chief assails time

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's former national police chief, Wasudsai Amornvivat, filed a police complaint Friday accusing Time magazine of defamation. A police spokesman said the complainant cited the magazine, its editor and the writer of an article in Time's Sept. 19 issue on the disappearance of millions of dollars in jewels belonging to a Saudi prince. A police investigation will be conducted into the complaint, and if evidence is deemed sufficient, the case will be sent to court for prosecution, the spokesman said.

### Iran builds bridge to Nakhichevan

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has built a new bridge to the autonomous Azeri territory of Nakhichevan over the bordering Araks River, officials said Friday. A first group of Iranians and residents of Nakhichevan crossed the Poldasht Bridge after a ceremony earlier this week attended by officials from both sides, they said. Poldasht is the second crossing point between Iran and Nakhichevan, which is a part of Azerbaijan but sandwiched between Iran, Turkey and Armenia. Previously the City of Jolfa, 130 kilometres from Tabriz in Iran's East Azerbaijan province, had been the main link along the 170-kilometre border. Under a bilateral agreement, citizens of the two countries can cross and enter up to 45 kilometres without a visa on Saturdays and Sundays, and stay for 15 days. With an area of 5,500 square kilometres Nakhichevan has a population of more than 270,000, mainly Shiite Muslims, like the majority in Iran.

### Haaretz goes to court in bid to name spy chiefs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli newspaper has gone to court in a bid to break censorship on naming the heads of the country's internal and external intelligence agencies. Haaretz reporter Yossi Melman petitioned the high court Thursday claiming that was no sensible reason for the ban. He pointed out that the names of the chiefs of the General Security Service (Shin Bet) and Mossad have been published throughout the world. Mr. Melman said he decided to bring the test case after the ubiquitous military censor removed the names from an article he wrote for the Sept. 8 edition of the Hebrew-language newspaper. "This is reminiscent of the restriction of information by totalitarian states in which the regime keeps information from its citizens," the petition said.

### Libyans hold Greek ferry, 80 crewmembers

ATHENS (AP) — Libyan authorities have seized a Greek ferry boat and are holding its 80 crewmembers on charges that the ship had originally been built for an Israeli company, the Merchant Marine Ministry said Friday. The 1,612-ton Greek-flag Vergina was seized in the port of Tripoli on Sept. 11 after its owner Stability Maritime Inc. of Liberia, chartered it to a Libyan company. Libyan authorities were said to be preparing to confiscate the ship after putting its Greek captain on trial. All the crewmembers except two are Greek. "The official explanation is that the ship was described by Arab countries as being 'undesirable' because it was built in 1964 for Israeli interests," the Merchant Marine Ministry said. But the ministry added that the ship was formerly called the "Saudi Moon," flew the Saudi flag and was owned by Saudi Arabinians. The announcement said the ministry was working with the foreign ministry to resolve the problem.

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:20 ..... Vienna (OAI) 23:25 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)

19:50 ..... Vienna (odd) (RJ) 23:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

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### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ) 06:00 ..... Apple ..... 600/400

07:00 ..... Muscat, Doha (GF) 06:30 ..... Baobas (Mukammar) ..... 620

12:30 ..... Rome, Larnaca (AZ) 07:00 ..... Carrot ..... 120/80

14:45 ..... Vienna (RJ) 07:00 ..... Cauliflower ..... 300/200

17:00 ..... Samia (TY) 12:00 ..... Cucumbers (large) ..... 120/80

19:00 ..... Cairo (MS) 12:00 ..... Cucumbers (small) ..... 200/120

19:20 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF) 20:00 ..... Eggplant ..... 280/180

22:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL) 21:00 ..... Garlic ..... 900/700

23:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ) 21:45 ..... Grapes ..... 300/200

23:45 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 22:00 ..... Grapes (Hilwan) ..... 300/200

23:55 ..... Cairo (RJ) 22:30 ..... Guava ..... 450/300

00:00 ..... London (RJ) 23:30 ..... Lemon ..... 230/180

01:00 ..... Madrid (RJ) 24:00 ..... Marrow (large) ..... 120/80

01:30 ..... Bahrain

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, congratulating him on his country's national day. The King wished the Saudi monarch continued good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity.

### Parliament opening postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued postponing the opening of the second ordinary session of Parliament until Oct. 22, in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 78 of the Constitution.

## A message via mime

By Angham Tamimi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Flashes, a culmination of a second joint workshop between a team of Jordanian theatre professionals and students and a British theatre company, The Right Line, focused on improvised story-telling, self-creation, mime, movement, masks, music and physical comedy techniques in lieu of language to convey a message to the audience last week.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opened the first of two shows, which was organised by the British Council at the Royal Cultural Centre. The performance included two complementary parts: the Jos Houben-Micheline Vandelop's show, which was essentially a lecture to prepare the audience for the coming performance, followed by the Jordanian performance, which was a presentation of six Arab folktales dealing with Djuha, the additional, cunning and comic Arab character.

The main idea of this piece of careful theatre relied on stories, each of which can only bear one meaning, their fear, stupidity, intelligence, love or confusion. Storytellers gave their bodies different qualities, such as on, butter, rubber or animal.

In April 1993, the British Council decided to invite a fine group to Jordan to present a show for all nationalities. Ruth Hill, the assistant director of the British Council, told the Jordan Times:

"We contacted an advisors' committee in London which helped us in selecting the right size." Ms. Hill said.

As actors visited Jordan in '93, and after four workshops in which about 30 Jordanian actors participated, four of the British actors made "Flight to Finland."

The production was successful and the Jordanian and

British actors alike found it very helpful, and "inspiring to their line of work," Ms. Hill said.

In response to the demand of Jordanian theatre professionals, the British Council in cooperation with the theatre programme of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) this year, invited the director of the Right Line, Jos Houben, and physiotherapist-turned-actress Micheline Vandelop back again to work extensively with selected Jordanian actors.

"Our distinguished style is motivated by clowns whose absurd sense of logic and continuing relish for the native optimism create a world of inspired lunacy with slapstick, acrobatics, live music and eccentric dancing," Mrs. Vandelop told the Jordan Times.

In explaining the company's approach to theatrical coaching, Mr. Honben added, "People need to learn to work as a group, as a team. It helps them enlarge their physical abilities, so they can enrich their imagination. We do not teach people to do something, rather we teach them to do one thing in several ways."

Throughout Flashes' several continuous stories, the main character, Djuha, tricks many people into believing that their money and their sheep are bis. He convinces other people to throw their children into the sea in order to return with plenty of sheep. Discovering that their children never return, their grief turns to anger against Djuha and they tie him to a tree in the desert, but his cunning nature helps him to cheat an old man into believing that it is a holy tree. So, he ties up the old man and makes off with his clothes and horse.

This year's joint production, which was well received by the audiences, was quite successful and encouraging, according to Mrs. Hill.

## Jordan, PLO to resume ministerial level talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One of the immediate agreements reached during last week's talks between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Farouk Kadoumi was to resume "ministerial level" talks between the two sides and that this could happen before the end of this month, a senior PLO official said Friday.

Omar Khatib, acting head of the Palestinian embassy in Amman, said he expected to receive on Sunday a firm word on the dates of the meeting from the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian delegation to the meeting will include at least seven ministers" of the self-rule authority, Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times. "The delegation will discuss all aspects of Jordanian cooperation and coordination in all spheres, with particular emphasis on economic relations."

Mr. Khatib said he did not expect Jordanian-Palestinian differences to block the finalisation of agreements in various fields of potential cooperation. "Agreements could be expected during this round of talks," he said.

Ministerial teams from both sides met last month in Amman and it was expected that the meetings would resume on Sept. 10. But, Mr. Khatib said, "internal problems" in Gaza and Jericho had delayed the meeting.

The PLO official said he expected the upcoming meeting to discuss a possible visit to Jordan of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the PNA.

Jordanian officials have said that Jordan was ready to welcome Mr. Arafat for high-level discussions, but the Palestinian leader has to come prepared to discuss all outstanding issues in depth with a view to not only reaching but also implementing agreements.

One of the key outstanding issues is an economic agreement. Jordan and the PLO drew up an accord in January after His Majesty King Hussein served an ultimatum on the PLO leadership to make up the agreement with Jordan to the extent that some Jordanian officials describe the status of institutionalised Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations as sub-zero.

There is no indication that Mr. Arafat, who is seeking all trappings of Palestinian statehood including a monetary authority and currency, is ready to drop his objections to some of the provisions in the accord reached with Jordan.

That accord was very broad without pinning down details or mechanisms for cooperation since the PLO had not reached an agreement on economic ties with Israel, which is effectively still in control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In April, the PLO and Israel signed an economic accord, which contained many overlaps with the January agreement signed with Jordan.

Subsequently, Jordan and the PLO drew up another accord as a follow-up to the January agreement and included in it detailed mechanisms for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in banking and monetary affairs and trade.

However, buoyed by what it saw as Israeli "concessions" that the organisation secured in the April accord with the Jewish state, the PLO leadership stalled over the agreement with Jordan to the extent that some Jordanian officials describe the status of institutionalised Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations as sub-zero.

Mr. Arafat, who is seeking all trappings of Palestinian statehood including a monetary authority and currency, is ready to drop his objections to some of the provisions in the accord reached with Jordan.

These include Jordanian licensing and supervision of all commercial banks in the occupied territories since the

Jordanian dinar is designated as the "main currency" in circulation there and the opening of an account by the PNA at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to channel international aid to the self-rule areas.

After Wednesday's talks with Mr. Majali, Mr. Kadoumi said Jordanian and Palestinian economies complemented each other and as such there should not be any obstacle to finalising the economic agreement.

Apart from political differences, some PLO officials accused Jordan of trying to bypass the PLO when the Kingdom signed an agreement with Israel in August providing for the export of \$30 million of Jordanian goods to the West Bank excluding the self-rule areas.

Jordan countered this accusation by pointing out that without Israeli agreement it would be impossible for anyone to export anything to the occupied territories and that the agreement was very much in line with the economic accord reached with the PLO.

Despite the agreement, the Israeli authorities have not issued any licence to Palestinian traders for imports from Jordan. "A few have applied

for licences but they have not received any response from the Israeli authorities," said a senior official.

According to the official, Jordanian exporters had sent samples of their products to the Israeli "quality control" authorities and had received approval of the standard and quality of the products — a prior condition for imports to Israel and the occupied territories.

On the other hand, the PNA is reportedly discouraging Palestinian importers from seeking licences for imports from Jordan, other sources said.

"It seems that Palestinian businessmen have been told not to bother to apply for licences for imports from Jordan since they won't be allowed in anyway," said one source.

The issue of trade and means to facilitate Jordanian exports to the self-rule areas as well as other parts of the West Bank are expected to figure high in the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian meeting.

"In addition, many other proposals were made to the Palestinian side during our last meeting," said a senior official. "They (the Palestinian side) are expected to

provide their response to those proposals during the next meeting."

Jordan is also looking forward to Palestinian ideas on coordination ahead of a planned four-party meeting grouping the Kingdom, the PNA, Israel and Egypt to discuss the fate of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war.

Jordan initially refused to endorse the idea of such a meeting since the Kingdom was not a party to agreeing to the forum, one of the stipulations in the Oslo accords reached between Israel and the PLO.

However, the Kingdom decided to drop its objections since it believed that it should attend "any meeting that would discuss the issue of displaced people and attended by Israel" and because the issue of displaced persons is being dealt with in the bilateral level with Israel as well as in the multilateral phase of Middle East peace negotiations.

"The minimum level of coordination that we expect from the Palestinian side is in terms of unifying data," said a senior official.

"It will be ridiculous for Jordan and the Palestinians to present differing figures and data during talks with Israel."

## 3-day Arab engineers seminar to include environment focus

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Engineers Federation (AEF), in cooperation with the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), is organising a three-day seminar in Amman Saturday to prepare for the 20th Arab Engineers Conference due to be held in Khartoum next March, according to Rawhi Sharif, head of a preparatory committee.

Dr. Sharif said the meeting, which will be held under

the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is expected to hear Jordanian working papers among the 24 papers presented by the various participating Arab countries.

One such paper is expected to deal with ways of safeguarding the environment and the safe disposal of waste from factories, said Dr. Sharif who added that the conference in Khartoum will have as its theme: research, development and scientific creativity in the Arab World in meeting technological challenges.

Dr. Sharif said researchers from the University of Jordan, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Corporation, the Jordanian Ports Corporation, the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) as well as the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre will take part in the meetings.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### LECTURE

Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### Lecture in Arabic entitled "Where Did The Old Testament Come From: Is it from the Arabian Peninsula Or From Where?" by Mr. Farajallah Dib of Lebanon at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 610853).

## Special educators underscore importance of early detection of learning disabilities

By Rima Cortbawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Special educators favour the term "learning difficulties" (LD) in describing problems faced by individuals who suffer from what has previously been suitably known as "learning disabilities."

Special education, the dynamic discipline of handling LDs, has in the past 20 years or so, witnessed remarkable advances in theories, diagnosis and teaching strategies, "so much so that earlier labelling of the underprivileged as 'failures' has become a discriminatory act of injustice," said Abla Zreikat, director of the New English School (NES).

LDs can be the result of perceptual shortcomings, disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding, using language in speaking or writing) or doing mathematical calculations, according to NES Education Counsellor Yumna Abus Hassan. They can also be caused by brain injuries, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia (difficulty with words) and developmental aphasia (speech loss).

But, these prodigies were able to overcome their problems successfully. Others may not be that fortunate.

"That leaves the problem in the hands of parents and educators who should recognise a child's difficulties in time to seek professional help, rather than avoid the issue by choosing the lazy approach of labelling the student 'in capable' or 'stupid,'" said Mrs. Malhas.

"LDs can normally be identified when a student shows severe discrepancy between achievement and potential (in either one or more of the basic reading, writing, listening, expression, mathematical skills) or uneven irregular development of some of the various components of

mental ability," said Miss Abus Hassan.

Although brain injury is hypothesised to originate either before, during or after birth, according to Mrs. Malhas, in many children LDs become apparent when they enter school and fail academically. "Then as curriculum becomes more difficult, other problems emerge. This can be of an emotional or social nature, causing self-consciousness and low self-esteem in some students," said Mrs. Malhas.

"One thing is commonly known; these LDs do not by any means reflect a low IQ," said Mrs. Zreikat. In fact, published information reveals that a large number of achievers and prominent characters such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Nelson Rockefeller had severe LDs. As children, these ingenious people met tremendous complications in coping at school and were considered "abnormal" as a result of their low standard of academic achievement.

But, these prodigies were able to overcome their problems successfully. Others may not be that fortunate.

"That leaves the problem in the hands of parents and educators who should recognise a child's difficulties in time to seek professional help, rather than avoid the issue by choosing the lazy approach of labelling the student 'in capable' or 'stupid,'" said Mrs. Malhas.

"LDs can normally be

taken out of their class to be helped individually by a special educator working in full cooperation with the parents who should totally approve, in order to fulfill a plan for the child's long and short term development. "Once the students learn how to utilise their strong points in coping with a regular class, they would be allowed to join their classes baving caught up with what they missed in education," said Mrs. Malhas.

One method of helping individuals to cope with SSS is to prescribe suitable coloured glasses, which can have a certain colour or a combination of colours.

The process of finding the right colours can take 3 to 4 hours, but it does solve SSS reading problems and often reduces headaches. Other LDs can also have different ways to overcome once particular cases are identified," said Mrs. Malhas.

With this growing awareness of LD complexities, more schools in Amman are directing efforts to accommodate special students so that they can get their rightful share of education without tremendous hardship."

The Abd el Hameed Sharaf School was the first to start special education in 1980, but soon after others, like the Amman National, Al-Manhal and Al-Mashreq schools followed suit. This year the NES and Amman Baccalaureate School are starting their own special education programmes," said Mrs. Malhas.

Traditional techniques to solve LD problems involve the "pull-out" system, in which special students are taken out of their class to be helped individually by a special educator working in full cooperation with the parents who should totally approve, in order to fulfill a plan for the child's long and short term development. "Once the students learn how to utilise their strong points in coping with a regular class, they would be allowed to join their classes baving caught up with what they missed in education," said Mrs. Malhas.

It is almost like giving a short-sighted person a pair of glasses; it is no cure, but a sure tool for normal vision," said Miss Abus Hassan.

## UNRWA advisory commission concerned over agency deficit

AMMAN (Petra) — The advisory commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is deeply concerned about the deficit in the agency's 1994 budget, estimated at \$43 million, said Assem Ghosheh, director general of the Palestine Affairs Department Friday.

Speaking upon his return

from the commission's meetings in Vienna to review the agency's operations and general report to the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Ghosheh said the commission members demanded that everything possible should be done to raise more donations for UNRWA's operations and services.

The agency's 1994 budget is estimated at \$632.4 million, according to the draft report to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. Ghosheh, who led Jordan's delegation to the meeting in Vienna, said that the commission appreciated the services offered to Palestine refugees by the Arab host countries, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, commended the agency's short term projects in these countries and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The commission also backed the Washington Declaration signed by Jordan and Israel as positive step towards the attainment of a comprehensive settlement, Mr. Ghosheh said.

He said the commission

hoped that the progress in the peace talks would reflect positively on the living conditions of the Palestinian people and on the agency's ability to offer them better services.

In its final statement, the commission said it hoped that various U.N. agencies and

the World Bank would back UNRWA's efforts towards improving the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands, stressing that the agency's services are vital for the Palestinians in the agency's fields of operation.

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## Indian plague kills over 100

SURAT, India (R) — Pneumonic plague has killed more than 100 people in the western Indian city of Surat and many more are battling for life, doctors and officials said Friday.

Tens of thousands of panic-stricken people were trying to flee the city, 270 kilometres north of Bombay.

"We are worried about the possibility of its spread. It is now confirmed that the disease is pneumonic plague," said N.D. Ghasure, a senior health official in Surat.

Doctors at the main hospital, where nearly 100 patients were being treated, said that some were responding to treatment but at least 80 were in "semi-critical" condition.

"These perhaps could be saved if they respond to treatment," said one.

The plague hit the city of two million people a week ago and the first deaths were reported three days later. "Our estimate is that more than 100 people have died," said a private doctor who

asked not to be named.

The railway and bus stations were crammed with fleeing people, most of them residents of Ved Road and Katargam, the two shanty areas worst hit by the plague.

Most people stayed indoors and those fleeing or moving in the streets covered their faces with cloth, handkerchiefs or doctors' masks.

"People are scared. It is a very virulent and fatal disease. It kills the tissues of the lungs of the affected patients in a very short time," Dr. Ghasure said.

"Patients come walking and within minutes they collapse and die," said Parvez Sheikh, a private doctor.

Outside the main hospital, grief-stricken relatives of the victims waited anxiously. No one was allowed to enter the isolation ward where the patients were being treated.

Hospital doctors complained of the shortage of medicines but government officials denied there was any lack of life-saving antibiotic

drugs.

I. Chaudhury, a senior Health Ministry official, said in New Delhi that there was enough tetracycline and septan in the Surat region to treat people who contracted the plague. "They are well stocked and we are going to augment the stocks," Mr. Mukherjee told Reuters.

A top ministry official, A.K. Mukherjee, said a team of government experts had been rushed to Surat to take blood and sputum samples to determine the nature of the disease.

"The symptoms suggest pneumonic plague," he said, adding that the government would await the team's findings before making a definitive statement.

An outbreak of bubonic plague — the black death of medieval Europe — in a area of Maharashtra state west of Bombay was under control, Mr. Mukherjee said.

Health authorities in Bom-bay and other parts of western India were on alert Friday to check the outbreak of the pneumonic plague, news reports said.



MOSCOW PROTESTS: Pro-Communist supporters picket the Russian White House building in Moscow Friday. The demonstrators gather here every day marking the anniversary of last year's power struggle between President Boris Yeltsin and the parliament which led to a bloody battle in October. (The poster reads: "No forgiveness to the murderers of Russian people") (AFP photo)

## No charge to be filed against Michael Jackson

LOS ANGELES (R) — Now that prosecutors have dropped their sex abuse investigation, Michael Jackson is expected to easily rebuild his music career but will have a tougher time regaining his luster as a top celebrity endorser, experts say. Advertisers will initially be wary of hiring the 36-year-old superstar but album buyers will have no trouble overlooking the 13-month probe into allegations that Jackson sexually molested a 14-year-old boy, the advertising and music experts said. "I thought he was dead professionally. A few months ago I never... would have believed Michael Jackson would have salvaged his career. Now I'm convinced that he will," syndicated gossip columnist Marilyn Beck told Los Angeles television station KABC. Prosecutors in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties announced Wednesday that they would not bring criminal charges against Jackson because the boy who had accused him of molesting him had refused to testify. But the district attorneys steered clear of publicly exonerating Jackson and said the case would remain open for five more years in case the boy changed his mind. In January, Jackson agreed to pay the boy a multimillion-dollar settlement in return for dropping civil charges, raising speculation that the singer had bought his silence. Jackson has denied any wrongdoing.

## Court overturns \$8.1m judgment against Basinger

LOS ANGELES (R) — An appeals court has overturned an \$8.1 million judgment against actress Kim Basinger for backing out of the starring role in the Main Line pictures film *Boxing Helena*. The State Second District Court of Appeals ruled that the judge in last year's civil trial had given the jury improper instructions. The breach-of-contract award which forced Ms. Basinger into bankruptcy — was one of the largest ever to hit Hollywood, where multimillion-dollar deals are often sealed with a handshake or a scrawled figure on a cocktail napkin. The ruling, which reversed the jury award but did not discuss the merits of the controversial case, sends the matter back to Los Angeles Superior Court for a possible retrial. Ms. Basinger, a sultry, 39-year-old actress who has become one of Hollywood's biggest sex symbols, had been accused of renegeing on a verbal contract to play the lead role in the offbeat film. Main Line, a small independent studio, said that Basinger's departure in 1991, just three weeks before filming was to begin, cost it between \$2 million and \$10 million. But Ms. Basinger had testified that she would have had to perform in graphic sex scenes. Ms. Basinger, an international box-office star who has appeared in such films as *Batman* and *9½ Weeks*, said she was "extremely pleased" with the appeal's court decision. "I was denied due process and the case was reversed," she said in a statement. "I continue to maintain that there was no contract, oral or otherwise."

## British bash brussels over bent bananas

LONDON (R) — British tabloids Wednesday embarked on one of their favourite sports — bashing Brussels bureaucrats over bent bananas. The target of their scorn are new European Union quality standards which say that from next January bananas must be free of "abnormal curvature of the fingers." The rules do not say how much a banana may bend. But they must be at least 14 cm (5.5 inches) long and 2.7 cm (1.06 inches) in diameter unless they come from Madeira, the Azores, the Algarve, Crete and Lakonia where they can be smaller because of special weather conditions. Euro-sceptics in Prime Minister John Major's Conservative government thundered about interference in the sovereign affairs of Jamco, the marketing company that represents the Jamaican industry, was concerned as he provided, peeled and examined a bunch of bananas on Sky Television. "Our bananas should have no problem in meeting minimum size requirements and have no problems on curvature either," he said.

## Dutchman hanged in Singapore for drug trafficking

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore hanged a 59-year-old Dutch engineer for drug trafficking here Friday after rejecting 11th hour appeals for clemency from the Netherlands, which said it was appalled by the execution.

Johannes Van Damme was the first European sent to the gallows here for heroin trafficking, an offence that carries a mandatory death sentence, a Singapore official said.

A total of 78 others, mostly Singaporeans, Malaysians and other Asian offenders were hanged before him.

The Dutchman prayed with a local pastor before being led to the execution chamber in Singapore's high-security Changi Prison shortly before dawn.

A prison source said that the hanging was over by 5:30 a.m. (23:30 GMT).

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Meirlo said his government was "greatly disappointed and appalled" by the execution which came despite a last-ditch attempt to save Mr. Van Damme, arrested in 1991 with 4.3 kilograms (9.6 pounds) of heroin in a false-bottomed suitcase.

But Mr. Van Meirlo said in a statement released here that his government's opposition to the hanging was based on its objection in principle to the death penalty, not because it thought the local judicial process was flawed. "The (Dutch) government ascertained that the proceedings against Mr. Van Damme were conducted correctly and fairly. There is therefore no question of the Netherlands criticising the judicial process in Singapore," he said.

Disclosures in the Netherlands that Mr. Van Damme had passed information on a Nigerian fraud case to Dutch intelligence raised a glimmer of hope that the execution might be delayed.

But this was dashed Thursday when Singapore told his lawyer and Mr. Van Meirlo that no stay would be allowed.

A Foreign Ministry statement later said Queen Beatrix had pleaded for a pardon "on humanitarian grounds" in a letter sent on July 8 to Singapore President Ong Teng Cheong. The request was turned down four days later.

The Dutch press unanimously condemned what it called the inflexibility of the Singapore government and the cruelty of its courts.

The Protestant daily Trouw said the Netherlands should work for a worldwide abolition of the death sentence. The mass circulation De Telegraaf expressed indignation over the "tragic end" but conceded that Mr. Van Damme had had an "honest trial" and that diplomatic sanctions against Singapore would be unwarranted.

Mr. Van Mierlo said the administration had taken heart "from the reaction of thousands of Dutch citizens who had responded to an appeal by Amnesty International" for the death sentence to be cancelled.

Mr. Van Damme's body was taken out of the prison through a private exit by a local casket company vehicle, embassy officials said.

## Perez de Cuellar to run for president of Peru

LIMA (AFP) — After months of speculation and an unofficial campaign swing, former U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has announced he will run for president of Peru.

The 74-year-old Lima native, with his wife Marcela Temple at his side, said he would stand in the April 9, 1995 election as an independent seeking office.

"I owe everything I am to Peru," he told supporters at a Lima hotel. "I don't think I have the right to refuse to serve it one more time."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said his platform would focus on a market-oriented economic programme and policies aimed at reducing poverty, ending terrorism and respecting the separation of powers between Peru's government institutions.

President Alberto Fujimori is widely expected to seek a second five-year term in

## Shots fired at helicopter of U.S. envoy in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — Gunshots were fired at a group of helicopters, one of which carried U.S. ambassador to Colombia Myles Frechette, in the southern province of Caqueta but no damages or injuries were reported, a military official said Thursday.

Colonel Idelfonso Maria Narango told the RCN Radio Network that the other helicopters carrying Mr. Frechette and other U.S. land Colombian officials were planning to land near a captured drug-processing laboratory deep in the jungle when they were fired upon.

The network said Marxist guerrillas were suspected in the attack. The RCN Radio Network said the other helicopters carrying Mr. Frechette and a

## U.S. will avoid quick nuclear cuts — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, hedging against a possible collapse of democracy in Russia, said Thursday it will not press now for further immediate deep cuts in its nuclear arsenals.

Instead, Washington will concentrate on carrying out strategic reductions already negotiated with Moscow and will work toward joint assurances on safety and security of thousands of atomic warheads in the United States and Russia.

Defense Secretary William Perry told reporters at a news conference that he did not expect a reversal of democracy in Russia and other former Soviet states, but that Washington was "hedging" against that possibility.

Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch added that the Clinton administration's new nuclear policy did not envision immediate cuts beyond the strategic arsenals of 3,500 warheads planned for Washington and Moscow in 2003 under the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (START-2).

"But there's feeling that the status quo isn't bad because Russia and other former Soviet states still have about 25,000 strategic and tactical nukes," said one defense official.

Other defense officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters earlier that

## Nigeria's opposition 'under siege'

LAGOS (R) — Opponents of Nigeria's military rulers expressed concern Friday at the seizure of Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka's passport, saying it was fresh evidence of harassment of democracy seeking office.

Mrs. Higuchi said Thursday she will appeal to the Organisation of American States and the International Human Rights Commission to make sure that it was not denied the right to run.

A nationwide survey taken to Apoyo released last Sunday gave Mr. Perez de Cuellar a 24 per cent of the vote, but Mr. Fujimori was the favourite with 44 per cent. The survey showed that on a second round, Mr. Fujimori would draw 50 per cent to Mr. Perez de Cuellar's 33 per cent.

"We are worried over the illegal seizure," Segun Jegede, spokesman for the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights said, adding: "This is further proof that they want to cow opponents.

Earlier in the week, the home of Ayo Opakoun, secretary general of the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) opposition group, his firebombed.

Last week, Beko Ransome-Kuti, president of the Campaign for Democracy (CD), was arrested and charged with writing threatening letters to oil companies operating in the country.

The moves follow a crackdown on strikes and riots to force military ruler General Sani Abacha to surrender power to Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential election.

A two-month strike by workers in the oil industry, Nigeria's economic backbone, failed to secure Mr. Abiola's release and he remains in detention and on trial for declaring himself president.

Since the end of the strike the government has strengthened itself with tough decrees allowing detentions without trial.

Mr. Soyinka was the 1986 Nobel literature laureate.

France said the submarines would serve as replacements for obsolete Daphne-class vessels possessed by Pakistan, and believed that the sale would not affect the security environment in South Asia, Mr. Srinivasan said.

France was "ready and keen" to sign a similar agreement with India, the senior

## Police caught looting in Papua New Guinea's volcano-hit town

RABAUL, Papua New Guinea (R) — Two Papua New Guinea police officers were arrested for looting Friday as authorities struggled to restore law and order in the near-deserted town of Rabaul — half-buried in volcanic ash after five days of volcanic eruptions.

Looters have been rifling through shops and homes since the town was evacuated early Monday after the eruptions of volcanoes Vulcan and Tavurvur on either side of Rabaul. They continue to billow clouds of white and black smoke.

Up to 100 armed policemen were moved into the town in the east of New Britain Island Thursday, with

orders to shoot looters who ignored warnings.

Bait a source in the security forces said there was also concern about police looting.

On Friday, the source said, two policemen were arrested with a van laden with stolen goods.

Leith Anderson, director-general of the National Disaster and Emergency Services, said a court would be set up in the nearby village of Kokopo to deal with the looting.

"While it is not accepted,

we understand that some people are trying to get food and water," Mr. Anderson told Reuters.

"No one, absolutely no

## IAEA urges action on nuclear smugglers

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Friday called for action to stem nuclear smuggling.

At their general conference in Vienna, member states of the U.N. nuclear watchdog expressed "deep concern" over the problem and passed a resolution calling on member states to "take all necessary measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear material."

The IAEA said in a statement the resolution also called for closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation to overcome the threat of the underground nuclear market.

The resolution invites IAEA Director General Hans Blix to take action to improve agency backup for members in controlling nuclear stockpiles, help analyse illicit material and boost safety measures.

Germany, hit by four nuclear smuggling cases between May and August, introduced the resolution on behalf of the European Union. It holds the rotating EU presidency.

Earlier this week German Minister Gerhard Ziller said the judge in last year's civil trial had given the jury improper instructions.

The breach-of-contract award which forced Ms. Basinger into bankruptcy — was one of the largest ever to hit Hollywood, where multimillion-dollar deals are often sealed with a handshake or a scrawled figure on a cocktail napkin.

The ruling, which reversed the jury award but did not discuss the merits of the controversial case, sends the matter back to Los Angeles Superior Court for a possible retrial.

Ms. Basinger, a sultry, 39-year-old actress who has become one of Hollywood's biggest sex symbols, had been accused of renegeing on a verbal contract to play the lead role in the offbeat film.

Main Line, a small independent studio, said that Basinger's departure in 1991, just three weeks before filming was to begin, cost it between \$2 million and \$10 million.

But Ms. Basinger had testified that she would have had to perform in graphic sex scenes. Ms. Basinger, an international box-office star who has appeared in such films as *Batman* and *9½ Weeks*, said she was "extremely pleased" with the appeal's court decision.

"It was denied due process and the case was reversed," she said in a statement. "I continue to maintain that there was no contract, oral or otherwise."

Under the deal clinched Wednesday during French Defence Minister Francois Leotard's visit to Pakistan, France will deliver three Agosta 90-B submarines and a batch of high-technology anti-ship missiles to Pakistan as part of a commercial deal.

France said the submarines would serve as replacements for obsolete Daphne-class vessels possessed by Pakistan, and believed that the sale would not affect the security environment in South Asia, Mr. Srinivasan said.

It will be the first time that France will export the SM-39 — the successor to the Exocet missile used in the 1982 Falklands War.

Mr. Srinivasan also said the international community should impose "penalties" on Pakistan for clandestinely procuring nuclear material and technology, an allegation denied by Islamabad.

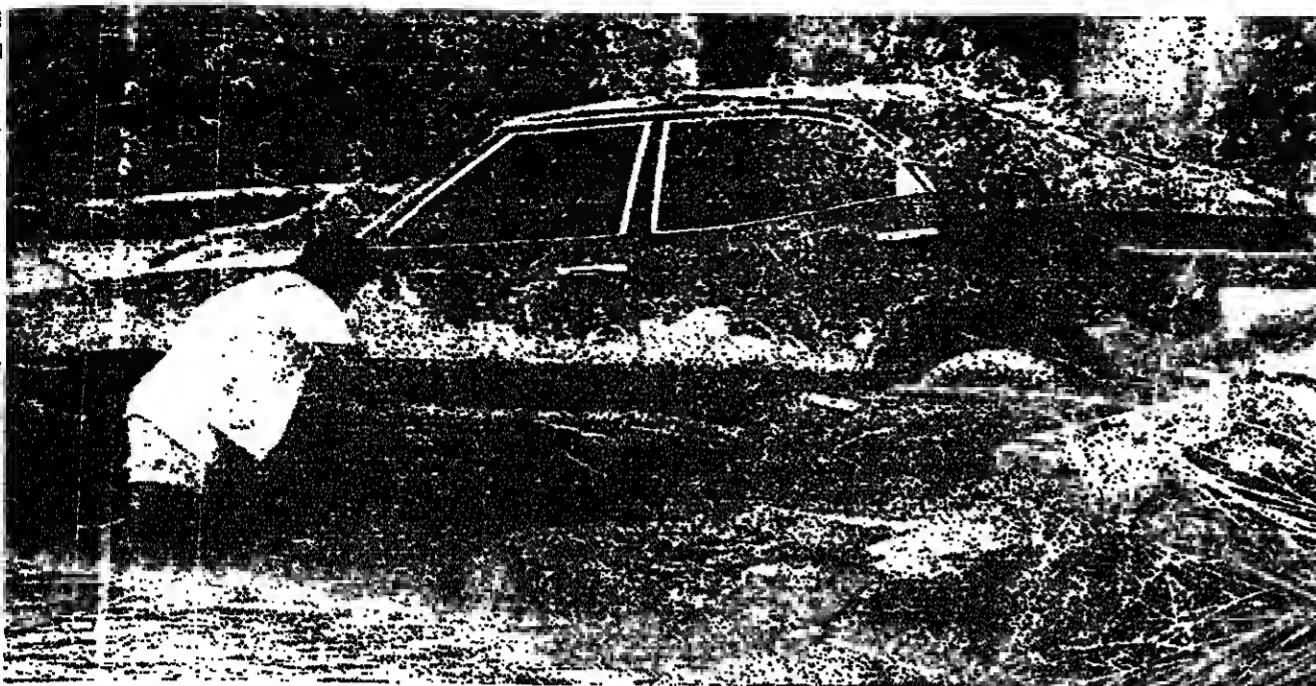
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A resident looks at his car swept by 10 feet high mudflow from Mount Pinatubo volcano Friday. The steaming mud and debris from the nearby volcano swept through two

## 18 die, 1,400 homes buried by Philippine mudflow



A villager with salvaged belongings walks on the roof of a house which was buried under 10 feet of volcanic mud and debris which erupted from Mount Pinatubo volcano (AFP photo)

**SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AFP)** — A 10-foot (three-metre) high river of scalding volcanic mud engulfed 13 villages north of Manila, killing at least 18 people and burying about 1,400 houses at the foot of Pinatubo volcano, rescue officials said Friday.

Seven other residents of Porac and Bacolor towns were missing after the deadly volcanic mudflow before dawn Thursday, and five people sustained severe burns, they said.

Officials of Pampanga province north of here mobilised a widespread rescue operation to save several thousand survivors, many of them marooned on the roofs of houses swamped by the hot mixture of ash, pumice and water.

At least nine of the fatalities, including a family of five, were trapped in their homes as they slept. Three of the victims were elderly people 70 years old or older.

Sonia Dimabuyu, a Social Welfare Department official, said she saw the bodies of four women and a man being fished out of the Gugo Creek, which was swollen with the volcanic debris.

The towns are approximately 60 to 70 kilometres north of Manila but are only about 20 kilometres away from Pinatubo.

Since the 1991 eruption, hot volcanic debris has continued to cascade down Pinatubo's slopes during heavy rain. Volcanologists say this phenomenon will continue until 1998.

The mudslide also des-

troyed a bridge and a two-kilometre stretch of a major highway, along with scores of trucks, cars and vehicles, officials of the Pampanga province Disaster Coordinating Council told reporters.

The council said the volcanic debris was dislodged from the flanks of nearby mountains including Pinatubo, whose massive 1991 eruption killed nearly a thousand people and skewed weather patterns around the world.

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## U.N. reports revenge massacres of Hutus by Rwanda's Tutsi army

**GENEVA (Agencies)** — The United Nations refugee agency said Friday it had reports that Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) forces massacred thousands of Hutus in revenge killings and it was no longer urging refugees to return to the country.

U.N. and government officials were to meet in Kigali later in the day to discuss conducting a joint investigation into the eyewitness accounts of the reported deaths.

"Although these alleged incidents were not carried out simultaneously or throughout the entire affected geographical areas, an unmistakable pattern of killings and persecution by the RPA aimed at Hutu population in certain parts of the country was the unavoidable conclusion drawn from the reports that are available to us," spokesman Ron Redmond told a news briefing.

"Estimates suggest that the number of victims may have been in the thousands each month," Mr. Redmond added, referring to the two-month period since late July.

Mr. Redmond said that due to the reports, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had stopped giving aid to refugees wishing to return to Rwanda 10 days ago.

The reports came largely from 300 interviews conducted from Aug. 1 to Sept. 5 by UNHCR's special repatriation team, which travelled through much of Rwanda and also visited teeming refugee camps in Tanzania, Burundi

and Zaire.

Mr. Redmond said the accounts recorded at "different border points" from newly-arriving refugees as well as from former refugees who had fled again, have been transmitted to U.N. headquarters in New York and to the Kigali government.

The Rwanda Patriotic Forces (RPF), who captured Kigali last July and set up the government, have vowed not to retaliate for the estimated one million minority Tutsis killed during two months of civil war.

Rwanda's government has acknowledged that some 60 to 70 Hutus were killed by RPA soldiers in various parts of the country, and it has reportedly apprehended seven RPA suspects, according to the UNHCR spokesman.

Mr. Redmond said the agency had some reports of RPA soldiers being assisted by Tutsi refugee returnees.

Rwanda's government is considering an amnesty, or re-education without trial, for Hutu extremist militias who were "used" by those who masterminded three months of genocide, the government spokesman said Friday.

Major Wilson Rutayisire said the measure would depend on the international community rapidly organising trials for war-criminals.

"The trial of those responsible for the genocide is long overdue. Some have been in prison for more than two months and very soon we shall be condemned for de-

"If these people are not brought to trial we will not achieve the reconciliation which implies that justice has been done."

He said the government just "wants them tried" and was "not bothered where and under which law." The trial could be held at the International Court at The Hague in the Netherlands.

Meanwhile UNAMIR said it would deploy a company of about 100 Canadians and Australians Saturday in the southeast where it so far had deployed only military observers. A Tunisian battalion due to arrive in 10 days in Rwanda will also be deployed in that region.

Mr. Mehu said the decision was taken after reports were received of a "deterioration of the situation" in the region and "allegations of revenge reprisals" together with "reports of atrocities."

But he said "nobody knows who" is responsible.

Maj. Rutayisire blamed the Interahamwe, who sought refuge in Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire, claiming they are crossing the border to "pillage," "kill," and commit "atrocities."

He said the government suspected a "campaign of former government officials to make the people stay behind" in the refugee camps in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania.

The first Japanese soldiers to take part in a foreign expedition under their own command since the end of World War II flew into the Zairean border town of Goma Friday.

## U.S., N. Korea meet for fresh nuclear talks

**GENEVA (R)** — U.S. and North Korean officials opened a fresh round of high-level talks in Geneva Friday amid warnings from Pyongyang that pressure for inspection of its controversial nuclear programme could spark a deal.

North Korea's delegation, led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju, arrived at the U.S. mission in Geneva and was met by U.S. Ambassador At-Large Robert Gallucci.

Both sides said this week they hoped to make some progress in resolving the nuclear issue which sent tension soaring on the last cold war frontier dividing North and South Korea earlier this year.

Hours before talks resumed, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman fired a fresh broadside against the West for piling pressure on Pyongyang to accept special inspections.

"If the dishonest forces created difficulties in the provision to LWRs (light-water reactors), insisting on special inspections, (North Korea) would not feel the need to freeze its independent graphite-moderated reactor programme," said the spokesman, quoted by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo.

A standoff between North Korea and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has begun to assemble to finance the possible changes to Pyongyang's nuclear industry.

North Korea has asked for billions of dollars to shut down one 50-megawatt and one 200-megawatt graphite-moderated reactor, both under construction, and build light-water plants instead.

Mr. Gallucci said discussions on the consortium had

so far involved South Korea, China, Japan and Russia but other Asian and European states could also join.

He stressed the consortium was still an idea and had not yet taken root as a body.

North Korea Friday called joint U.S.-Japan naval exercises off its east coast a "war gamble" that could complicate negotiations.

"The war gamble of the U.S. and Japanese navies on the east Sea of Korea ... impeded the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula," said a report in the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling party.

The report also called the manoeuvres a "threat and a challenge" that can "never be justified." The report was quoted by the Korean Central News Agency, which was monitored in Tokyo.

The joint manoeuvres began in the Japan Sea, or East Sea as it is called in Korea. Monday, Bob Bernal, spokesman for the U.S. forces in Japan, said the exercises are routine and held two or three times a year.

Mr. Bernal said the carrier USS Kitty Hawk and its battle group, which were recently deployed to the same area, were not part of the joint manoeuvres. The Kitty Hawk is based in Yokosuka, Japan.

## Sinn Fein's Adams gets visa for visit to U.S.

**LONDON (Agencies)** — U.S. officials confirmed Friday that Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, would be given a visa to visit the United States but said he could not engage in fund-raising.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy in London said the visa would be issued in Belfast later Friday. Mr. Adams has told reporters he expects to start his trip Saturday.

Sinn Fein said Mr. Adams would visit nine cities in his two-week tour, flying into Boston as part of an international effort to capitalise on the ceasefire and harness support for the organisation's ultimate aim of a united Ireland free of British "interference."

After Boston, Mr. Adams will go to Hartford, Connecticut, Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C.; San Francisco and Los Angeles.

He plans to meet business as well as political figures and address several public meetings attended by Irish-Americans.

Last February Mr. Adams achieved a 10-day-long coup during a short trip which the Clinton administration sanctioned in face of stiff opposition from Britain. He was given wide coverage on network television and other

media.

After the IRA declared a ceasefire 23 days ago, the ban on Mr. Adams' voice being heard in the British media was lifted by Prime Minister John Major.

London has said it would not happen if Mr. Adams was granted a second visa but Prime Minister John Major, travelling back to London from a trip to South Africa, said Sinn Fein was "very nearly there" as far as being accepted back into mainstream politics was concerned.

"They could settle the matter immediately by making it clear that what they have said is meant to convey that they have given up violence for good," Mr. Major told BBC Radio.

"If they were to say that today, clearly we could be talking at or around Christmas time."

The so-called Downing Street Declaration made by the British and Irish governments last December promised Sinn Fein a place at talks about the future of the province if the IRA gave up its guerrilla war for good.

It recommends a three-month waiting period to test any ceasefire, but Mr. Major said he would not put a date on talks.

Anglo-Irish talks on Northern Ireland resumed here Friday.

## Italian graft-buster is under fire over book

**ROME (R)** — Graft-hunting prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, a national hero for his work in uncovering political corruption, came under fire for meddling in politics Friday with his forthcoming book on Italy's constitution.

"The Italian Constitution Rights and Duties" marks a first venture into writing for Di Pietro, the key figure in the "mani pulite" (clean hands) anti-graft drive which has transformed Italy's political scene in the past two and a half years.

Excerpts from the book were published this week in *Sette*, the weekly magazine of the *Corriere della Sera*.

The magazine gave cover-story status to the ruggedly handsome Di Pietro, picturing him in his magistrate's robes alongside a headline quoting his work as "the constitution explained to Italians (including Berlusconi)."

If the excerpts are anything to go by, the book will make uncomfortable reading for Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, whose financial empire is under investigation by Di Pietro. Mr. Berlusconi's brother and business partner Paolo was briefly detained as part of the probe this summer.

Leading lawyer Vittorio Chiusano criticised Mr. Di Pietro for his vanity in having his picture taken posing in his robes.

"What should matter to ordinary citizens is a magistrate's inquiries, not what he looks like," Mr. Chiusano was quoted as saying in *Corriere della Sera* Friday.

The judge argues that the solution to Italy's prison overcrowding problem is to build new jails rather than

relax the laws on pre-trial custody as the government sought to do in July until a revolt by Mr. Di Pietro and his colleagues forced it to back down.

Mr. Di Pietro also warns of the risks of wealthy businessmen controlling the media, another shot across the bows of Mr. Berlusconi, owner of three national television channels.

The introduction to the book is written by controversial former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who has typically mildewed the to the

right.

Di Pietro is a politician. He didn't realise it but this book marks his entry into politics and signals an exit route for the country from its crisis, Mr. Cossiga said.

The judge faced accusations of political interference earlier this month when he came up with a plan to end Italy's graft scandals.

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## Jordan Times

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## Much work lies ahead

WHAT IS it that the prime minister of Jordan is supposed to accomplish at this critical stage of the Kingdom's history? A great deal indeed.

First, there is the peace process. And here the incumbent, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, should be the one to see the peace process to its fruitful end. That, because he is the man who led the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks back in 1991 and who devoted much of his time and energy to the Washington talks that eventually resulted in the separation of the Palestinians from the joint delegation. Dr. Majali was Jordan's chief delegate at the peace talks, who finalised with his Israeli counterparts the agenda for Jordan-Israel negotiations that still guide the process. Not only that, Dr. Majali had, on many occasions in the last two years, to defend the peace process at Parliament and against opposition and media rhetoric.

Despite sceptics' doubts about the actual role that Dr. Majali and his government are playing in the peace process, all government dispensing so far has been carried in accordance with the spirit and letter of the constitution. Dr. Majali remains the most ardent supporter and campaigner for peace.

Whether there are others lining up for the premiership, which is normally the case, or not, is not the issue. The feeling among many politicians and activists is that Dr. Majali has earned himself a historic mandate to sign the final peace document. And for that reason, Dr. Majali seems to be staying on in office.

On the domestic front however, the Majali government has come under much criticism for being unable to effect any structural change in government that would address age-old complaints of inefficiency and corruption. The Cabinet is also criticised for having done little to prepare the country for the new challenges brought by a Middle East in peace. Dr. Majali's so-called decentralisation process in fact accomplished little more than giving local authorities more power while possibly only relieving people in far away communities of the trouble of travelling all the way to Amman to address the government.

Despite increasing calls for civil service reform, the government seems unable to initiate any move in this direction. The establishment of a Royal Commission to help carry out the task could be a supporting factor in this regard. The establishment of the commission led to much speculation about the government being bypassed, but His Majesty King Hussein sought to dispel this speculation in his meeting with the media Thursday.

While no one questions the integrity of Dr. Majali himself, there were many complaints of government favouritism and nepotism from many quarters. Furthermore, political party leaders and activists, especially those opposed to the peace process, claim that they are being targeted by the government.

Many people think that Dr. Majali deserves the confidence of His Majesty the King and many hope that before formal peace is established between the country and Israel, the government would have carried out the necessary reforms that are expected of it.

While we appreciate Dr. Majali's integrity, honesty and well-intentions we believe that a great deal of effort to address domestic issues is in order.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily has expressed shock at a decision on the part of several Latin American countries to move their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in a show of support for Israel's claim that the city serves as Israel's united capital. The Latin American countries move came at a time when the whole world realises that peace has not been achieved and that Israel continues to occupy Arab land and deprive the Palestinians of their national statehood, said the paper. The Latin American countries' decision will adversely affect peace prospects and can by no means help the two sides in the conflict to attain a lasting settlement, added the paper. The whole world realises the fact that Israel occupied Arab Jerusalem along with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by force in the 1967 war and the world community has not helped the Arabs and the Israelis yet to reach a final settlement while the refugees and the displaced people are still living in the diaspora, said the paper. The whole world also realises the fact that the Israelis continue to carry out arbitrary practices against the Palestinian and refuse to allow the Arabs to exercise their rights in their own homeland, the paper continued. The Latin American countries' decision, said the paper, should be condemned as a measure that harms the interests of the Arab Nation and hampers the prospects of genuine peace.

AHMAD DABBAS, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab daily, urged the concerned authorities to control the actions of stores which sell gas cylinders to the public. It is a well-known fact that many of the cylinders are rusty and could be leaking, and that many of the dealers steal part of the gas in the cylinders, said the writer. Furthermore, he said the gas cylinder vendors continue to roam the streets and alleys day and night causing severe disturbance to the residential districts. Tampering with the gas cylinders themselves and disturbing the peace is something not only detested and harmful to the public but is also a breach of law, added the writer. He expressed hope that the concerned authorities would take some measure to deter such practices and protect public interest.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kahlil

## Kingdom's role in Jerusalem will not end

ONE WOULD have thought that the differences in perceptions over Jerusalem between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were on their way to be settled once and for all after the Kingdom made its stand very clear that it supports the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty in the Holy City. But recent moves announced by PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho indicate otherwise despite subsequent clarifications and explanations.

For all technical and practical purposes, the PNA appears to have given little credit to the fact that Jordan proved its argument that its links to the holy shrines in Jerusalem are not politically oriented when the Kingdom not only supported the Palestinian stand but also engineered a unanimous vote endorsing the Palestinian quest in Jerusalem at the recent Arab League Council meeting in Cairo.

Two distinct voices appear to be coming out of Gaza and Jericho after the Arab League meeting. One calls Jordan to relinquish its control over the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem in favour of the Palestine National Authority although no formal request has been forwarded to the government of the Kingdom. The other says that the recent decision by the PNA to 'authorise' its new minister of Islamic affairs, Hassan Tahboub, to take charge of all Islamic holy shrines in the occupied territories excludes Jerusalem. We do not know what exactly the PNA wants.

But one thing is clear: Jordan will not relinquish its historic links with the Islamic Waqf and will not allow politics to play a damaging role in preserving the Arab and Muslim character of the Holy City.

Anyone who argues that Jordan should "hand over" the Islamic Waqf at this point is at best shortsighted even in the hypothetical situation of the Kingdom being ready to do so. Who does it hand over the Waqf to? to the PNA, whose leaders are not even allowed to enter Jerusalem let alone assume control of the shrines?

Realities are realities no matter how anyone looks at it, and the Jordanian stand is clearly based on the realities that exist on the ground today.

The stand is unambiguous if only one looks at it clearly without own ambiguity. The Hashemites are linked historically to the holy shrines in Jerusalem and would not allow anyone to challenge it now or ever. They are determined to continue to that role despite all adversities and difficulties.

The insistence by His Majesty King Hussein that Israel go on the record that it undertakes to respect the Hashemites' role vis-a-vis the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration stemmed from his determination to preserve Jordan's historical links with the holy city regardless of whatever politics are brought in by anyone.

At the same time, Jordan is fully committed to supporting the Palestinian right to political sovereignty over Jerusalem. That also has been made abundantly clear.

Whoever does not want to acknowledge the clear distinction drawn by Jordan and argues that there cannot be such a drawing line is only trying to use politics as a cover for some other motives and objectives.

Jordan has made it more than clear that it does not have any desire to return to the pre-1967 status of the occupied territories.

Against the backdrop of these factors, one cannot but assume that the PNA has no intention of honouring the Hashemites' religious role in Jerusalem and hence the hue and cry over the Israeli recognition of the historical fact.

If that indeed is the case, then it is time the PNA came out and stated it in public rather than resorting to a cat-and-mouse game. That way, everyone would know whether the other stands. If non-coordination with Jordan is a strategy of the PNA, then why should Jordan try to put itself in a corner by continuing to achieve coordination?

PNA officials come to Amman and state in public that there are no differences between Jordan and the authority of Jerusalem or any other issue. They talk about brotherly relations and sincere desires to cooperation in various spheres. But those words are not supported by actions coming from Gaza.

Such games are not going to serve anyone's purpose. The need of the day is coordination and understanding between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule leadership as to the precise status of Israeli plans with a view to aborting them.

For a start, the PNA should look more closely at quietly at the legal status of Palestinians living in Jerusalem and at the definition of "residents of the city" and "the citizens of the State of Israel." These are indeed Israeli-made laws and regulations but there are enough loopholes that could be exploited by the Palestinian side in its efforts to reaffirm the Arab, Palestinian and Muslim identity of Jerusalem and advance their quest for political sovereignty over the Holy City in a legal sense.

Such an approach would be more advantageous and fruitful to the Palestinian quest rather than going dancing in circles around the historically-rooted Jordanian position.

## U.S. military again in middle in Haiti

By Charles Aldinger

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The high moral ground taken by U.S. President Bill Clinton to restore democracy to Haiti has left U.S. troops once again perilously poised between opposing forces in a chaotic Third World nation.

With bitter experience in Somalia barely over, American forces were sent peacefully into Haiti by Mr. Clinton to cooperate with an ongoing military junta that Mr. Clinton repeatedly has accused of violence and terror.

"The trouble with Clinton is that he wants it both ways. You're either an occupying power or you're not," said Lawrence Korb, a former assistant defence secretary now with the private Brookings Institution.

"We haven't thrown the bums out yet and, in fact, we're working with them in a dangerous situation.

Meanwhile, alarmed supporters of Mr. Aristide in Washington complained that Gen. Cedars and others should have been forced to leave Haiti immediately and the military and police should be disbanded right away as they would have been in an invasion.

"We are placing our military people basically and fundamentally in an untenable position," charged Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona, a former cavalry officer and prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"What we are about to see is the classic example of what we call 'mission creep,'" said Mr. Korb.

"It looks like a flaming disaster," said analyst Dan Goure of the private Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, too after U.S. troops stood by this week and watched Haitian police club a pro-Aristide demonstrator to death.

The U.S. policy is to change Haiti's bloody political history, quickly rid the poor nation of lieutenant-general Raoul Cedras and other junta members and restore elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a 1991 coup.

Mr. Clinton, anxious to avoid casualties, cancelled an invasion on Sunday after a last-minute deal brokered by former president Jimmy Carter under which Mr. Cedras will quit next month and allow an occupation force of 15,000 U.S. troops.

Mr. Aristide's opposition is still well-armed and Mr. Cedras is not required to leave Haiti. Some Pentagon officials say privately that the alternative to invasion has created a more complicated scenario and could put U.S. troops in even more danger from political violence in the weeks ahead.

Those troops stood helplessly by in the capital Port-au-Prince this week while Haitian police attacked demonstrators welcoming the Americans and

shouting support for Mr. Aristide. In a drama reportedly shown on television in the United States, at least one demonstrator was clubbed to death by baton-wielding police.

The Pentagon said U.S. troops would not interfere in routine police functions and American commanders would instead press Gen. Cedras to exert more control over his security forces.

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"What we are about to see is the classic example of what we call 'mission creep,'" said Mr. Korb.

"It looks like a flaming disaster," said analyst Dan Goure of the private Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, too after U.S. troops stood by this week and watched Haitian police club a pro-Aristide demonstrator to death.

The U.S. policy is to change Haiti's bloody political history, quickly rid the poor nation of lieutenant-general Raoul Cedras and other junta members and restore elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a 1991 coup.

Mr. Clinton, anxious to avoid casualties, cancelled an invasion on Sunday after a last-minute deal brokered by former president Jimmy Carter under which Mr. Cedras will quit next month and allow an occupation force of 15,000 U.S. troops.

Mr. Aristide's opposition is still well-armed and Mr. Cedras is not required to leave Haiti. Some Pentagon officials say privately that the alternative to invasion has created a more complicated scenario and could put U.S. troops in even more danger from political violence in the weeks ahead.

Those troops stood helplessly by in the capital Port-au-Prince this week while Haitian police attacked demonstrators welcoming the Americans and

## LETTERS

### Save downtown

To the Editor:

In HIS article, "The popular areas and the need for social action" (Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26), Ahmed Majdoub raised an important issue that pertains to our environment and health.

The lack of concern for the environment and the health of the people as well as their time, can be clearly proven by the situation in downtown Amman.

Downtown Amman should be considered a popular area where only public transport vehicles are allowed, especially at peak hours. Citizens using their private cars can park them outside downtown and use public transport to go there. That would reduce air pollution and end traffic jams.

I believe the concerned government authorities should take immediate action to implement these proposals as I am sure, that they enjoy the support of most of the people who go to the downtown area.

Dr. Barbara Burgan, Amman



## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Israel's intransigence at bilateral talks is feeding opposition to peace process

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

LACK OF PROGRESS in the Middle East peace process and a number of domestic affairs were given prominence in newspaper editorials and columnists' articles in the past week.

The peace process, which started off with the aim of implementing U.N. resolutions, is facing a major conspiracy by Israel with support from the United States administration, said a writer in Al Ra'i. The Israeli have reportedly been trying to tamper with the text of the U.N. resolutions concerning the return of Arab land in a bid to circumvent a settlement of the refugees issue and the Jewish settlements question, charged Mahmoud Rimawi. It is sheer piracy on the part of the Israeli government which continues to drag its feet concerning the withdrawal of its forces from occupied Arab lands and it is a crime in which the criminal is trying to erase the traces of his crime, said the writer.

A writer in Al Dustour said that Israel hopes to freeze the peace process until after the Israeli parliamentary elections, and others, said the writer, are more pessimistic, stressing that no peace would ever be achieved with Israel.

Two columnists were critical of the government's recent decision to increase the cost of state-supplied water to farmers for agricultural purposes.

Ahmad Dahbas in Sawt Al Shabab said that the increase represented a move directly in conflict with the farmers' interests and subsequently the public interest. The writer said that

the increase in the cost of water for irrigation together with the other headaches facing the farmers, like frost in winter and accumulating debts and interests, would lead to destruction of farming and would force many farmers to quit their lands.

This view was echoed by Mohammad Subehi, a columnist in Al Dustour, who said that the increase of the water cost has placed the farmers between the anvil and the hammer. As they strive to pay back their debts and make a living, farmers also have to pay more for water and for the other agricultural inputs, said the writer. The government's decision would make agricultural production almost impossible in the Jordan Valley. Instead of protecting Jordanian farmers from foreign competition, the government is increasing the burden on local food producers, added the writer.

Commenting on the uneasy situation at the Amman Financial Market, a writer in Al Dustour said the depression there is closely connected with the Middle East peace process.

Issam Shueibi said that investors in Jordan's firms and economic projects keep their ears turned to news bulletins and watching to see whether any progress has been made there to encourage them to make investments. The writer said that what made matters worse was the government's reported decision to amend the Income Tax Law with a view to raising the margin of taxes and imposing income tax on profits made at the financial

market. It is regrettable to see people made to believe that the government is no longer concerned with the Amman Financial Market and to see more and more people feeling pessimistic about the future of the national economy, said the writer.

A columnist in Al Dustour paid tribute to the efforts made by the concerned authorities, especially Vocational Training Corporation, for recruiting many young men and women to get training in different trades. In industrial countries, technicians and tradesmen constitute the pillar of industry and form the backbone of economic progress, said Mohammad Daoud, noting that this year more than 13,000 students of the first secondary class have registered to learn a trade while they are still at school. The writer said that the Ministry of Education is to be commended for its efforts, which would eventually help the country rid itself of guest workers and help Jordanians get employment.

Commenting on His Majesty King Hussein's call on the government to ensure fairness in all its public dealings, a columnist in Al Dustour said that this can only be carried out through strict actions and laws. Nabil Sharif said that the government ought to issue legislations aimed at preventing any discrimination among members of the public in all matters relating to services, employment and others. He said drastic action is needed in this matter in order to safeguard national unity.

# Features

## BBC connived with M16 to oust Nasser

By Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITISH Intelligence for 15 years secretly ran an influential Arabic radio station which it used during the Suez crisis to dispense virulent propaganda against Egypt's President Nasser, documents released from Foreign Office and BBC archives disclose.

Declassified files also reveal the extent to which senior BBC staff connived in the government's decision to convert the station into an open propaganda weapon.

Sharq-Al-Adna — the Near East Broadcasting Station — was set up in Palestine by British Intelligence in 1941 and relocated to Cyprus in 1948. Using the cover of a commercial station, it transmitted anti-Israel commentary, readings from the Koran, and music from its own orchestra on a strong medium band wave-length.

During the Suez crisis, Sharq became "the Voice of Britain," broadcasting propaganda interspersed with sanitised BBC news bulletins for four hours a day.

The government claimed at the time that it had "requisitioned" Sharq. Papers released for a BBC Radio 4 programme, Suez: The Propagation of Truth, show that this was a lie — the government was running the station all along. A document in the BBC archives at Caversham, near Reading, Berkshire, noted in October 1956 that the Sharq company "on the technical side will continue to act as the agent of HMG (Her Majesty's Government)."

A Foreign Office document, dated March 1947, reveals that FO officials were looking for "suitable candidates for the posts of Director and Deputy Director" of the Sharq station.

## King reiterates confidence

(Continued from page 1) state and who always monitors the general situation and who orders a change whenever the Council of Ministers or a Cabinet member seems to be failing in performing his duty," Dr. Majali said in an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily published Thursday.

"Any change in government which the King orders is for the benefit of the national interest and also the prime minister himself might resign whenever he feels that he has failed in his duty or could not achieve the nation's objectives," he added.

Asked about reported disputes between the government and the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Majali said: "I would like to emphasise that I have never felt at any time that such disputes exist."

"Nothing on my part or on the part of my colleagues did ever antagonise the House or any of its blocks or members. Nor did the government exceed its authorities," he said.

"Parliament has 80 members, most of whom were elected in their independent capacities and not on the basis of political affiliations. Therefore it was difficult to please everybody in the make-up of the government," Dr. Majali said.

"I do not mean that every one member of Parliament wishes to become a Cabinet member but it is right to be part of a government," he added.

On opposition accusations that the government was imposing a blackout on its activities and views, Dr. Majali said this accusation was unfounded.

"The opposition newspapers are on the newsstands and their views are seen, heard or read on radio, television and the press," added Dr. Majali, who stressed that only when people violate the law they are held to account for their actions.

"Leveling accusations at others at random is not the work of true opposition be-

Senior BBC staff went along with the fiction that the station was "requisitioned." One official notes that Sharq "became well established during the war under Foreign Office auspices... we have had many contacts with the station."

Hugh Carleton-Green, a future director-general who was controller of External Services at the time of Suez, was a member of a secret Foreign Office/M16 committee chaired by a junior FO minister, Douglas Dodds-Parker. He was appointed after consultations between Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, FO permanent secretary, and Maj-Gen. Sir Ian Jacob, then the BBC's director-general.

Typical of the output of the Voice of Britain were warnings to the Egyptians: "You are hidden in small villages. We are obliged to bomb you wherever you are." "Why has this befallen you? First, because Abdel Nasser went mad..."

The committee noted that the "long-term aim is to get rid of Abdel Nasser." The government line — known by senior BBC staff to be false, the documents show — was that Britain had invaded as part of a "police action" to separate the combatants (Egypt and Israel).

A cabinet committee tried to persuade the BBC not to be "so obsessed by the notion of neutrality." Government pressure to toe the line included threats of deep cuts in the BBC's grant.

The documents were disclosed under Whitehall's "open government" initiative. Some — in both the FO and the BBC's Caversham archives — have been withheld. The programme raises the question whether the BBC should be keeping the government's secrets in its own archives — The Guardian



Despite intense international efforts, Rwandans still live in perpetual tension and fears (AFP photo)

## U.N., NGOs put together Rwanda water plan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — International relief agencies, including several United Nations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have developed and implemented plans to restore water services to Rwandans, a U.N. statement says.

The statement said one of the key aims of the programmes was also to attract those who fled their homes during the carnage that followed the mysterious death of the country's president early this year.

"The rehabilitation of water and sanitation services to their pre-conflict status in towns and villages is being developed in tandem with emergency repairs and temporary... services and main routes along with refugees and displaced persons are travelling," said the statement.

The three-stage plan — emergency, mid-term, and long-term actions — was drawn up after a rapid assessment of needs and capacity and seeks to avoid duplication of work, it said.

"The restoration of water services within Rwanda is

complicated due to the war damage, looting of equipment, the absence of most technical personnel and the loss of many records and technical details necessary to restart the systems," the U.N. said.

The massive movement of Rwandans within the country and to neighbouring countries in fear of violence has led to "large concentrations of people in areas where few water supply systems are available to meet even the minimum basic needs," it said.

Immediate plans drawn up by the various agencies, which include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other U.N. bodies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), aim at providing a minimum of five litres per day of water to every Rwandan and sufficient number of latrines along the expected main routes of returning refugees and displaced persons in Rwanda.

Providing basic water supply and sanitation facilities at semi-permanent encampments of displaced

Rwandans and to all hospitals and health centres is another goal.

Teams of UNICEF water engineers have done rapid assessment of water supply systems in the Rwandan capital Kigali and 13 main urban centres throughout the country to evaluate their needs.

In Kigali itself, UNICEF, ICRC and UNAMIR are involved in a joint effort to restore the city's water system through generators and water treatment plans as well as repair work at various sites. At least 50 per cent of the city's population would have piped water by the time the plans are complete. Now only 25 per cent of the Kigali population get water.

The U.N. listed other main programmes as under:

— A water purification plan, donated by Australian International Bureau (AIRAB), has been installed at Rilima beside Lake Gashanga, 80 kilometres south east of Kigali, and is providing water to over 6,000 people daily.

In Gikongoro, UNICEF, after the departure of the French military, has taken over coordination of

the plant which provides piped water to the town, which currently has a population of around 50,000 people. UNICEF is providing water purification chemicals and incentives for local workers to operate the plant, while UNAMIR provides the fuel.

In Butara, in southern Rwanda, UNICEF, Medicines Sans Frontiers and the ICRC are repairing the partially damaged water treatment plant and pumps and have cleaned out blockages in pipelines. UNICEF and the parastatal Electrogaz held a three-day operational maintenance workshop for 35 workers at water treatment plant. UNICEF has agreed to provide chemicals and incentives for the workers at the plant for six months.

In the northeast, an assessment mission was undertaken. It found that four of 11 camps (with a total population of 62,000, of which most are refugees returning from Uganda), required urgent water supply. UNICEF provided tools and spare parts to rehabilitate the water system at one of the camps (Nyagatare camp).

and water purification tablets officers are preparing messages on basic hygiene and control diarrhoeal disease for radio broadcast and printing leaflets and posters, and is mobilising individuals to work as health message communicators within their communities.

UNICEF Executive Director James Grant, completed a four day mission to Rwanda and Burundi (9-12 September). Extensive consultations included meeting with the Rwandan president, senior ministers both Rwanda and Burundi and with U.N., NGO and donor communities in Rwanda. Field trips to view UNICEF programmes in Kigali, Nyamata, Cyangugu and Gikongoro in Rwanda and Butavu and Goma in Zaire, were undertaken.

Three tractors and 27 water tanks, of different sizes and capacities and 1,000 litre jerrycans, 2 tonnes of chlorine, and 7 boxes of 50,000 water purification tablets have been provided by UNICEF to camps in the Gikongoro area with assistance from the British army contingent in UNAMIR, who provided transport and storage.

— Coordination with the British army contingent to dig pit latrines in 34 camps.

The water and sanitation rehabilitation activities are part of the broader programme of reducing mortality and morbidity throughout the country. To reinforce the projects to increase access to potable water and sanitation facilities, UNICEF's health

## Christopher upbeat on Syria

With half a dozen of his 44 Labour deputies warning they will support the bill, Mr. Rabin badly needs the Shas vote to ensure a majority in the 120-member house.

Mr. Rabin was expected to meet Meretz on Sunday to try to solve the dispute.

The leader of the opposition Likud Party on Friday called for an immediate referendum on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, confident that the public opposes trading the plateau for peace with Syria.

Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel should take a tougher stand on negotiating with the Syrians, that he would demand keeping all the Golan as a starting point in negotiations with Damascus.

Mr. Netanyahu's call comes as tens of thousands of Israelis showed their opposition to a possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights by visiting over the past holiday week.

Mr. Netanyahu said either general elections or a referendum "should be done now before the Israeli public is presented with a fait accompli. We will honour the decision of the Israeli public."

The Likud Party has repeatedly called for new elections since the Israeli-Palestinian accord was signed a year ago.

## Jordan seeks equal access

(Continued from page 1)

and liberalisation of press and publication laws. "Our human rights record is second to none in the region, and is being already judged according to European standards."

"Democratisation in Jordan is an irreversible political process which runs in line with the Kingdom's basic principles of economic freedom and liberal policies," said Dr. Huneidi, adding that Jordan's economic model is based on free-market mechanisms and progressive encouragement of the private sector.

The minister also noted that Jordan had applied for membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and undertaken serious measures aimed at liberalising its trade regime.

Dr. Huneidi referred to the economic restructuring programme under way in Jordan, noting that policy reforms and institutional strengthening were being carried out in all major sectors.

"Despite the enormity of this task and the ensuing social challenges, foremost among which are increased levels of poverty and unemployment, Jordan remains committed to economic restructuring and reform," she said.

"Creating the appropriate conditions is not only the responsibility of our peoples, who have chosen peace as a strategic option; it is also the responsibility of the international community which has invested considerably in this process and which also stands to benefit from a stable Middle East," she told the audience.

Jordan has already made major strides in preparing itself to be more receptive to foreign investment and has met with the requirements of such investment, she noted.

"We have already embarked on a bold political reform process that would ensure an atmosphere of democracy, pluralism and stability conducive to economic growth," she said.

The minister referred to the democratisation process under way in Jordan, the Kingdom's reintroduction of a multiparty political system

potential risks of polarisation and the threat that may bring to the stability of the region," Dr. Huneidi said.

Foremost among the investment opportunities available in Jordan are in tourism and Dead Sea chemicals, the minister said, noting that feasibility studies have established the lucrative nature of such ventures.

"Foreign investors will find in Jordan a hospitable environment with competitive investment incentive schemes," she added.

While Jordan has no problems in developing economic cooperation with Israel, the Kingdom is concerned over the "possible destabilising effect of expanding disparities" between the economies of the two countries, she said.

This explains Jordan's "preference for a gradual and well-planned transition to open economic relations" with Israel, the minister said. "This could be done over a period of time that would allow addressing and resolving economic disparities as a precondition for successful cooperation."

"Our position emanates from our determination to make peace a durable one rather than from resistance to normalisation of relations," Dr. Huneidi said. "It reflects our desire to forge peace based on a balance of prosperity for all."

Under the reported scheme, families would be offered a lump sum for their home or business and then a monthly allowance linked to army pensions.

Anat Maor of the left-wing Meretz Party told the ratio that compensation should be made available immediately to wantaway settlers among

Heights.

Christopher sought to be brought back into the coalition and to be given ministerial portfolios in line with agreements made with Mr. Rabin, but blocked by the secular Meretz.

The orthodox group quit the coalition a year ago when its leader Aryeh Deri, who was interior minister at the time, was indicted for fraud and corruption.

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# Economy

## British pound seen appreciating to \$1.60 in six to 12 months time

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Sept. 15-1994 until Wednesday, Sept. 21-1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

### British pound

The British pound was steady against the U.S. dollar trading in the US/GBP 1.56-1.57 range. The pound gained against the DM and was up to DM 2.44 as the mark weakened on the European crosses.

The recent U.K. rate hike combined with a cut in the German discount rate expected after the October elections should move the UK-German interest rate differential in favour of the pound. With the DM expected to strengthen against the U.S., and the pound to strengthen against the DM, we expect the pound will appreciate to U.S.\$ 1.60 in six-to-twelve months time.

### Deutschmark

The dollar had a mixed week against the DM, trading in the DM 1.53-1.54 range. The dollar initially took a tumble against the DM as a 0.6 per cent rise in the producer price index renewed market fears about U.S. inflation. However, a better-than-expected consumer inflation report gave the dollar a small boost. The DM was generally weak in Europe following apprehensions in the market about whether Chancellor Kohl's party would win a majority in the October elections.

In general, dollar weakness against the DM is expected to continue in the coming quarters with real interest rate differentials beginning to move in favour of the DM. Further, the growth differential that was in favour of the U.S. is beginning to narrow pointing to increasing DM strength in the long-run. We look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.50 level in 12 months.

### Swiss franc

The Swiss franc rallied against the Deutschmark last week to a new high of SF/DM 0.8284. Currently the franc is trading near 0.8286. Increased signs that the Swiss economy continues to recover has helped the franc to appreciate against the mark. Second quarter GDP in Switzerland rose at a 2.4 per cent rate following a first-quarter rate of 3.2 per cent. Fixed investment continues to lead the recovery. Consumption and government spending has been showing only modest growth. The external sector, on the other hand, has been a drag on the economy. Exports fell in the first and second quarter while imports increased.

The weakness in the external sector suggests the Swiss franc may be overvalued. With consumer price inflation still low — up only 0.5 per cent in August from a year ago — Swiss authorities could cut the discount rate again to offset some of the strength in the currency. We expect a 50 basis point cut in some of the strength in the currency. We expect a 50 basis point cut in the discount rate — currently 3.5 per cent — within the next six months. We expect the franc to return to trading near SF/DM 0.84 where it should remain steady for the next year.

Against the dollar, the franc remained fairly steady in the last week, trading near SF/U.S.\$ 1.29. Over the next six-to twelve months, we expect the franc to appreciate against the dollar to SF/U.S.\$ 1.26.

### Canadian dollar

The Canadian dollar surged following the Sept. 12 Quebec election results, appreciating from C\$U.S.\$ 1.37 on the day of the election to 1.35 the following day. Though the Parti Québécois returned to power — as expected — their margin of victory was narrower than expected and it appears as though a referendum on sovereignty — likely to be held in 10 months — would be unsuccessful. The latest opinion poll on sovereignty showed 30 per cent in favour, 56 per cent against and 14 per cent still undecided.

Since the election, the CS has continued to show strength, appreciating to C\$U.S.\$ 1.34. With the election out of the way, the focus of attention should return to domestic economic fundamentals, which continue to point toward a stronger CS. We maintain our forecast for the CS to be trading near C\$U.S.\$ 1.28 in twelve months time due to strong non-inflationary growth and improving budget deficits.

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Three candidates race for top world trade post

GENEVA (R) — Three candidates — a Mexican, an Italian and a South Korean — emerged this week as the official contenders for the post of chief of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) to be born next year.

And negotiators from major powers have assured trading partners their leaders are committed to ratification of last December's GATT treaty opening world markets in time for it to go into effect, and with it the WTO, from next Jan. 1.

The apparently final line-up in the leadership race emerged in the last few days after Brazil said it was pulling out its former finance min-

ister Rubens Ricupero, and the European Union (EU) said it was formally endorsing Italy's ex-trade minister Renato Ruggiero.

The twin developments left

Mr. Ruggiero, now an executive with the Fiat Motor Company, facing off against Mexico's outgoing president Carlos Salinas de Gortari and South Korea's Trade and Industry Minister Kim Chul-Su.

But diplomats said it was

far from clear if any one of

them could garner the necessary support or avoid a veto,

and that a compromise candidate like New Zealand's Trade Minister Philip Burdon could still enter in case of deadlock.

Mr. Salinas, who has U.S.

backing and could expect full

support from the Latin American countries who

wield growing influence in GATT, launched his WTO bid early in the summer and had been seen as the front runner. He steps down as the summer and had been seen as the front runner. He steps down as president of Mexico on Dec. 1 — fitting perfectly with the present schedule for the transfer of control at GATT from current Director General Peter Sutherland of Ireland, who did not seek the WTO job.

But diplomats say Mr. Ruggiero is winning support outside the union — from former communist states in Europe and from many African and Asian delegations to

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1994

the 47-year-old GATT as a trade specialist who would also bring political clout. And some trade negotiators say he now looks to have the edge.

"There is a groundswell of concern that Salinas would not be able to stand up to the Americans," said another diplomat from an emerging economy. "We also wonder if he might be too aloof from day-to-day operations."

Mr. Kim, who has com- paigned widely, has public backing from the ASEAN grouping of South East Asian nations and from Australia.

Supporters of both Mr. Ruggiero and Mr. Kim say the WTO needs a technician

with a detailed grasp of trade matters — as they have rather than a political figure even with the international prestige and economic education of Mr. Salinas.

Mr. Salinas backers argue his key role in steering Mexico away from protectionism into a market economy and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) link-up with the United States and Canada make him an ideal WTO chief.

The outcome will be decided without a vote through the consensus system operated by GATT. Any delegation can "withhold consent."

## Clinton warns of sanctions Japan ignores threat

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton warned Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono Thursday that Tokyo had one last week to open its markets or risk U.S. sanctions.

Japan brushed off the threat, insisting it wants trade peace and not war, and aides said the two sides were working on new proposals on one key sector in a bid to break the impasse.

In the meantime, however, a U.S./U.K. compromise proposal for a selective issue of nearly \$24 billion worth of SDRs just for the newcomers is gaining support among industrialised countries and would be acceptable for Germany.

One official German source said, "this is something we could live with and it has found broad favour among industrialised countries." But it was not yet clear whether the developing world would think it enough.

"I hope they will come round," the source said.

During the economic discussions in Madrid, Germany, often the butt of criticism at international financial meetings, is unlikely to be in the dock.

The Bonn government expects the German economy to grow by 2.5 per cent in 1994 and by three per cent next year, inflation is likely to fall to two per cent next year from three per cent now and the budget deficit is falling.

Economists said a pre-IMF Madrid meeting of Group of Seven finance ministers, scheduled for Oct. 2, is likely to produce the usual calls for more cooperation and continued efforts to rein in government finances.

The Bundesbank would probably be encouraged to trim interest rates a little further, but not to an extent that markets would feel it was giving up on inflation.

And the U.S. Federal Reserve would be told that its policy of interest rate rises to cool an overheating economy and nip inflation in the bud was the right approach.

tive offers ahead of Friday's meeting, lending a more positive note to the negotiations.

Mr. Kono also brushed off Mr. Clinton's sanctions threat, telling reporters he did not believe it would prove necessary.

But should no deal emerge, glass, car parts and government procurement could all come under attack, U.S. sources said.

One U.S. official said the two sides were "very, very close" to agreement on insurance and public procurement, while stressing the talks were at an extremely delicate stage.

"We're far from a deal on autos, miles and miles apart, and right now we probably can't get anything on glass," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Clinton has two demands. First, he wants Tokyo to be fair when it awards government contracts in telecommunications and medical technology. Without a breakthrough, Japan will face retaliatory sanctions.

Second, Tokyo could face accusations of discrimination on a number of fronts as part of the Super 301 law, which would trigger months of negotiations under the threat of sanctions.

Barring a breakthrough, the 301 option looks all but sure, with glass and car parts the top candidates.

Some voices in the administration, however, have voiced concerns about drawing on the unilateral 301 arsenal, fearing Washington could be branded a pariah by its trading partners.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A day when you will be able to charm others by the attention and interest you indicate in their welfare and activities. The triple Moon trine to Neptune, Uranus and the Sun keeps things moving on track.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) All kinds of tasks can be handled today, whether at home or in the outside world. Get an early start on them and you will be ahead.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Go to the beauty or barber shop today and improve your appearance to look more charming and successful. Get about socially and make new contacts.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Many small tasks are awaiting your attention at home, so get right at them and they are soon out of the way and behind of you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) This is a fine day for handling correspondence, statements, travel plans, etc. Then you can get out and go visiting good friends.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Handle any accounts and reports for which you have had little time during the busy week. Take any needed health treatments to feel good.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Improve your appearance and then handle personal problems wisely. Know who it is you want in your life for the future.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Those petty annoyances in your life need to be handled meticulously now and gotten rid of quickly. Money can't buy everything.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) It is important that you handle every item precisely when going after your special goals if you are to make headway in your progress.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Getting shopping, marketing and other outside duties handled early is wise. Don't procrastinate or nothing will get accomplished.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Some new interest can be investigated today. Get at this early and find the right sources of data you need for a new assignment.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Some special attention to business and financial affairs now can make the days ahead much brighter. Handle small duties now.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to have greater access with associates in the future and gain their added cooperation. Carry through meticulously any details.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

### THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYTHE HORAB MUGNIP SAHDIR

Now arrange the circled letters to form a surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

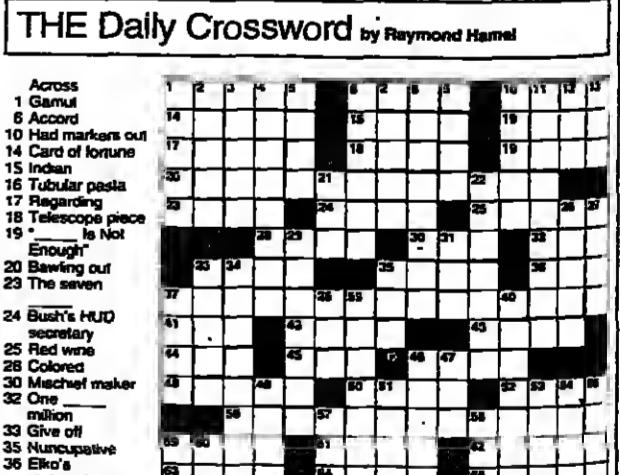
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: GRAMY CRAFT OMELET FAMISH

Answer: What some take when they go shopping — THEIR TIME

### THE Daily Crossword

by Raymond Hamel



# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1994 9

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
<b>U.S. Dollar in International Markets</b>					
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close			
Sterling Pound	1.5763	1.5768			
Deutsche Mark	1.5464	1.5456			
Swiss Franc	1.7825	1.7855			
French Franc	5.0258	5.0247**			
Japanese Yen	97.75	97.44			
European Currency Unit	1.7260	1.7234**			
U.S. per STD.					
European Interest Rates	Date: 22 9 1994				
Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. Dollar	1.71	1.70	1.69	1.68	
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.75	5.72	5.71	
Deutsche Mark	1.51	1.47	1.46	1.45	
Swiss Franc	1.75	1.72	1.69	1.66	
French Franc	5.05	5.07	5.06	5.05	
Japanese Yen	97.15	97.12	97.05	97.03	
European Currency Unit	1.7252	1.7247	1.7242	1.7237	
Interest rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 Dinar equivalent					
Precious Metals	Date: 21 9 1994				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	394.10	3.25	Silver	3.62	0.125
24 karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 22 9 1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.9950	1.0040			
Sterling Pound	1.0951	1.1019			
Deutsche Mark	0.4406	0.4516			
Swiss Franc	0.5429	0.5456			
French Franc	0.1515	0.1522			
Japanese Yen	0.7090	0.7134			
Dutch Guilder	0.4012	0.4052			
Swedish Krona	*****	*****			
Italian Lira	0.0448	0.0448			
Belgian Franc	*****	*****			
Per 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 22 9 1994				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8520	1.8400			
Lebanese Lira	0.040945	0.041965			
Saudi Riyal	0.1853	0.1871			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.8160	2.3490			
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1920			
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.7370	1.8150			
UAE Dirham	0.1855	0.1898			
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3275			
Cypriot Pound	1.5750	1.4950			
Per 100					

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOLDING AND CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN					
TELEPHONE: 66010 / 662170					
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (17/09/1994 - 21/09/1994)					
WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME					
TRADING VOLUME JD					
OPENING PRICE					
CLOSING PRICE					
PERIOD					
ARAB BANK					
306,900	181,000	181,000	181,000	181,000	
121,677	7,490	2,500	7,500	7,500	
1,195	1,195	1,195	1,195	1,195	
62,632	1,830	1,830	1,830	1,830	
HIGHWAY EAST INVESTMENT BANK					
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK					
JORDAN AGRICULTURAL BANK					
JORDAN BANK					
JORDAN CREDIT & INVESTMENT BANK					
JORDAN TELECOM BANK					
JOHNSON BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANKING INVESTMENT FOR HOLDINGS					
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION/JORDAN					
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL BANK					
JORDAN POLYTHENE INDUSTRIES					
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE					
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & GAS COMPANY					
JORDAN POWER & ELECTRICITY					
JORDAN RAILWAYS					
JORDAN TRADE & INVESTMENT					
JORDAN TRADING CO. LTD					
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES					
JORDAN TRAVEL & TOURISM					
JORDAN TRUST & SECURITY INVESTMENT					
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER					
JORDAN TRUST COMPANY / ARABA'					
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORDE HOTELS					
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION					
JORDAN TRAVEL & TOURISM					
ASTROGRAMM CONS. MATERIALS & BUILDINGS					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES					
JORDAN FERTILIZER COMPANY					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY					
JORDAN TANING					
THE JORDAN COTTON & AGRICULTURAL					
JORDAN STEEL & METALS					
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING					
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES					
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES					
JORDAN PLASTICS & POLYMERS					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS					
NATIONAL POLYO-CHEMICALS					
NATIONAL PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES					
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES					
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES					
JORDAN PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS					
NATIONAL COTTON & TEXTILE MANUFACTURING					
JORDAN HELICO-CHIMICALS					
ARAB FERTILIZER & CHEMICALS					
INTERNATIONAL TRADE & CHEMICALS					
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES					
UNION CHEMICAL & PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES					
GRAND TOTAL	4,952,779				

## Central bank expects to collect 40 per cent of Petra Bank debts

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Collecting the debts of the collapsed Petra Bank is proceeding well and the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) expects to collect about 40 per cent of all the debts of Petra Bank. That would put the total debts at around JD 350 million.

Dr. Nabulsi said that by

prediction represented 20 per cent of the total dues of the Petra Bank from its debtors. That would put the total debts at around JD 350 million.

Dr. Nabulsi said that by the time the liquidation committee ends its task next year, it hopes to have collected 40 per cent of all the debts of Petra Bank. During the collection process, the liquidation committee offered several incentives and waiver of lawsuits to entice debtors to settle their outstanding dues to the collapsed bank.

The CBJ, which pumped in several hundred million dollars to keep Petra Bank afloat for some time and the complex documentation that the liquidation committee had been collecting since the committee began work in July 1990.

Bassam Atari, head of the committee, was quoted as saying by the local press that 25,000 of the 34,000 outstanding Petra Bank accounts had been settled.

The CBJ took over Petra Bank in August 1989 when its financial troubles became acute because of what was later proved in court to be mismanagement and embezzlement.

Most of the senior managers of the bank, including chairman and general manager Ahmad Chalabi, fled the country shortly after the takeover. They were tried and sentenced in absentia since then.

Central Bank Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said last week that the JD 69 million

A government-appointed committee ran the bank for

eight months but the burdens of the bank were too heavy to be streamlined. Therefore, the Economic Security Committee of the government decided to place the bank under liquidation after undertaking to settle all dues owed to depositors in the bank.

The liquidation process, which began in July 1990, was expected to be completed in two years time. But the immensity of the work and the complex documentation that the liquidation committee had to handle prompted an extension of the deadline to August 1995.

Dr. Nabulsi said last week that although the treasury was in serious trouble at that time, the decision to step in and assume the responsibility of settling Petra Bank depositors' dues was a strategic economic decision that went a long way in ensuring public confidence in the Jordanian banking system.

"It was in itself a message that we would keep our banking and financial system clean," Dr. Nabulsi said.

"We wanted to restore public confidence in our banking system."

Had the government not stepped in and protected the interest of Petra depositors by using state funds, confidence in all other Jordanian banks would have eroded leading to a massive capital flight out of the country, the central bank governor said.

share prices reached last week were seen by many as optimum. They expect the levels to stabilise at this point awaiting further developments and clear signals on a proposed removal of capital gains from income tax exemption.

The weekly report of the AFM said the general share price index based on 60 major companies listed in the market closed at 140.9 points, down 1.5 points or 1.01 per cent from the week's opening of 142.4 points.

However, brokers said the actual drop was higher, given that many non-listed companies had also saw a decline in their stock prices.

"It is difficult to attach a figure to the actual drop," said a broker. "But the dominant trend among investors is to shed shares and move capital away to other areas."

The AFM report said the volume of trade for last week rose by 5.9 per cent to JD 5.4 million from the previous week's JD 5.1 million. The marginal increase was attributed by brokers to the trend in the market to sell than buy.

"There are still quite a few investors in the market who believe that the decline is temporary and now is the time to buy rather than sell," said the broker. "Also, leading shareholders in many companies are seeking to increase their holdings."

Share prices have lost as much as 10 per cent since Aug. 30, when the government announced a proposal that would remove capital gains from the list of exemptions from income tax. Officials have since explained that it was only a proposal that should be studied and debated in consultation with all sectors before a decision is made.

However, investors simply do not believe that the government would backtrack on a taxation proposal and the assurances have not done much to soothe investor fears that their year-end capital gains at the AFM could be taxed, brokers say. Hence the decline in prices and the move by many investors to other areas of investments.

## China summons Japan's ambassador to protest Taiwan Asian Games presence

BEIJING (AP) — The foreign ministry has rehired Japan's ambassador over his government's decision to let a Taiwanese official attend next month's Asian Games in Hiroshima, official reports said Friday.

Tian Zengpei, the vice foreign minister, summoned Japanese Ambassador Michihiko Kunihiro Thursday to lodge a second formal protest over the issue, the reports said.

The continued war of words has ensnared Japan in the rivalry between Beijing and Taipei and made it increasingly difficult for Tokyo to find a face-saving compromise.

China threatened to boycott the games after the Olympic Council of Asia invited Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui to attend the opening session. The council later appeared to cancel

Lee's invitation, saying no political figures could attend the games in Hiroshima.

Japan's foreign ministry said last week that Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh was invited to the Oct. 2 opening ceremony, not as a politician but as a sports official — a member of the preparatory committee for Taiwan's bid to hold the Asian Games in 2002.

Tian told the Japanese ambassador that Japan was to blame for the controversy over the Hiroshima Games and said he hoped Tokyo would abide by its promise to recognise only one China.

"Otherwise Sino-Japanese relations will suffer setbacks," the reports quoted him as saying.

Officials at the Japanese embassy in Beijing and at the foreign ministry in Tokyo did not respond.

"The Chinese side deeply regrets this decision," the newspapers quoted him as

saying. "Taipei's nationalist government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to the communists on the mainland. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and requires that all nations that have normal ties with Beijing sever their formal relations with Taipei.

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"The Chinese side deeply regrets this decision," the newspapers quoted him as

On Thursday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Chen Jian declined to say whether China would stay away from Hiroshima if Hsu attended. However, the manager of a Chinese yacht team already in Hiroshima told Japanese reporters that the team would boycott the games if Taiwan did not back down.

"At least the yacht team will return to the country in protest," Dai Shiqiang told Japan's Kyodo news service.

China has already requested permission for the landing of five charter planes to carry Chinese teams to Hiroshima, indicating that Beijing still plans to attend. Kyodo reported.

China usually dominates many events at the Asian Games, and the absence of its 700-some athletes would be a severe embarrassment for Japan.



CHARITY GAME: U.S. basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson passes the ball during a charity game to raise funds for fight AIDS against the "Best of Levallois-Antibes, Thurs-

## French player confirms doping ban

PARIS (R) — Bastia midfielder Stephane Ziani has revealed his identity as the French player handed a one-month suspended ban for doping last season — when he was with fellow first division side Nantes.

"After the Auxerre-Nantes match on April 1, 1994, I tested positive for salbutamol. Suffering from asthma since I was a child, I am obliged to take ventoline," the 22-year-old French youth international said in a statement published by the sports

daily L'Equipe on Friday. Ziani, who joined promoted Bastia at the start of this season, added that the ventoline, which contains the banned substance salbutamol used to cure asthma, had been prescribed to him by Nantes' medical staff.

Ziani's statement made public the identity of the player after L'Equipe had revealed Tuesday that a then anonymous member of a first division side had been secretly suspended last season.

French federation Presi-

dent Claude Simonet, who confirmed the case to Reuter Tuesday, declined to name the player, the club or the substance taken.

Nantes Manager Robert Budzinski told L'Equipe that Ziani had suffered from asthma since he joined the club as a trainee at the age of 10. Ziani said the lenient sanction he had been given proved he had no intention of enhancing his performance.

Salbutamol was at the centre of a doping controversy in

France last month when it was revealed that four times Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain tested positive after taking ventoline to ease breathing problems. The Spanish rider was later cleared by the French Cycling Federation.

Salbutamol is a banned substance under International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules on doping unless it is being used as part of a medical treatment, to cure for instance.

## Tottenham ground ban on coach Venables stays

LONDON (R) — Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar said Thursday he would continue to bar England coach Terry Venables from entering the club's White Hart Lane ground until he apologised for statements in his autobiography.

"Asked when Venables might return, Sugar told a sports writers' lunch: "Not until he apologises to me for all the rubbish he wrote about me in his book."

Venables's autobiography was published Thursday and contains a detailed account of his bitter tussles at Tottenham with computer tycoon Sugar.

The two joined forces to save Spurs when the club were in financial difficulties. But they split amid acrimony which ended with Venables being ousted from the chief executive's job last year.

Venables is now suing Sugar for unfair dismissal but the quotable chairman, advising an out-of-court settlement, insisted on Thursday: "We're not going to give him any money. I'll settle with him, have a little tango with him or a game of tennis or buy him a drink."

"But if you're talking about whether we'll give him any money, the answer is no."

Venables, a player, mana-



Terry Venables

ger and then chief executive with Tottenham, was appointed England coach in January this year.

He writes in his autobiography: "I would have swapped everything, even the England job, for the chance to be back at Spurs... but a Spur free of Sugar's hateful influence."

Sugar still admires Venables the coach, saying: "One of the reasons I bought Tottenham was because he was involved. I believed what I read in the newspapers, that he was God's gift."

The infusion of foreign tal-

ent has helped to smooth over troubled times off the pitch. The club were heavily punished by the F.A. earlier this year following irregular payments to players from 1984 to 1989.

The original punishment was adjusted on appeal by an F.A. commission to a six-point deduction with a £1.5 million (\$2.37 million) fine. A 1994-95 F.A. Cup ban remained.

Sugar is claiming the F.A. have acted beyond their powers and Wednesday he launched a fresh bid to overturn the ruling with the final decision being made by an arbitration committee.

Despite their highly publicised off-pitch troubles, the club, widely tipped for relegation after a dismal performance last season, have confounded many of their critics.

They have gained a reputation for fast, attacking football, although the defence remains shaky.

On Wednesday Premier League Spurs beat First Division Watford 6-3 in a League Cup tie. Kinsman scored three, taking his total to 10 in seven games.

Sugar said Thursday rumours that he had signed Kinsman without the knowledge of manager Ossie Ardiles were untrue.

## UEFA to help clubs heavily in debt

STOCKHOLM (R) — UEFA, concerned that some of Europe's clubs are verging on bankruptcy as huge transfer fees and bad deals force more into excessive debt, are drawing up guidelines to try to help them get out of the red.

European soccer's governing body decided Thursday to lend their expertise and guidance to national associations on how to handle heavily indebted clubs.

UEFA want the football associations to take a firmer line with clubs which are sliding further into debt and prevent others making financial commitments they cannot meet.

"A lot of second and third division clubs are buying expensive players they can't afford to pay," said UEFA press officer Salvatore Cuccu, who cited France as an example. "There is a concern that some clubs may go bankrupt."

"UEFA is concerned that national associations do not know how to cope with this problem and feel it is time to

help."

UEFA said in a statement that associations were responsible for monitoring the financial management of their clubs and that they were authorised to do this.

Cuccu said UEFA would draw up guidelines to advise associations how to help clubs with no skills in financial management.

"We want to help them not to invest in deals they cannot afford. Not all associations have the same knowledge about how to deal with financial matters, especially when they

have a lot of problems."

He said the problem was growing in most of Europe's leagues.

"It is an overall problem and the clubs are not few in number," Cuccu said.

"Many associations are not in a situation to decide what to do about these clubs."

Some have asked us to help and UEFA believes it has the experience to provide that help."

"We want the associations to improve their relationships with the clubs."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
©1993 Tribune Media Services Inc.

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦A108 ♦J10 ♦Q9 ♦A8653  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 NT Pass 2 NT ?  
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦A852 ♦A84 ♦J53 ♦J75  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass  
What action do you take?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
#7 ♦K93 ♦AK10822 ♦A102  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?  
West North East South  
1 NT Dbl 3 NT ?  
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South  
#4 ♦1095 ♦10752 ♦AK762  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 NT Dbl 3 NT ?  
What action do you take?

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# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1994

## Mystery deaths suspend Queensland horse races

**BRISBANE (R)** — Major weekend horse racing events in the Australian state of Queensland were cancelled Friday after a mystery illness resulted in the deaths of 11 race horses, 10 in one stable.

Transport of horses was also banned in a wide area of south-east Queensland and several stables were placed under quarantine. Queensland Racing Minister Bob Gibbs said.

"Detailed laboratory analysis carried out following autopsies on the horses which have died, has so far not identified the cause of death," Gibbs said in a statement.

"However, veterinary officers believe it is likely the animals have suffered from a viral infection, with an incubating period over four days, and they have advised a containment policy," he added that laboratory testing

was continuing.

Ten horses died over a three day period this week in the racing stables of Brisbane trainer Vic Rail, who is himself in a critical condition in hospital suffering from a mystery illness.

One horse at a neighbouring stable also died. All suffered from a rapid increase of fluid in their lungs and either suffocated or had to be destroyed.

Five other horses in Rail's stables were still ill on Friday. The total value of the losses was not known.

There was nothing to suggest a link between Rail's illness and the deaths of the horses, Gibbs told Australia's ABC radio.

The ruling covers all gallop and trot meetings in south-east Queensland, where the major race events in the state are held.

## Sanchez Vicario, Sabatani go through in Japanese tourney

**TOKYO (R)** — U.S. Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and number four seed Gabriela Sabatini took contrasting routes into the semifinals of the Nichirei women's tournament Friday.

But sixth seeded German Sahne Hack was tumbling out by unseeded local favourite Nana Miyagi who won a closely contested quarterfinal battle 7-6 7-5.

Miyagi, however, will have little time to relish her status as the only remaining Japanese contestant in the tournament.

Waiting for her in Saturday's semifinals is top seed Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who wasted little time and effort in sweeping aside American Marianne Werdel 6-4 6-0.

Sabatini made heavy weather of her quarterfinal against another unseeded Japanese, Ai Sugiyama, squandering three match

points in the second set and barely surviving the third to win 6-3 6-7 7-5.

"The match was very close — it could have been for her. But I never gave up and just kept fighting ... without thinking about winning or losing," said the Argentine, who faces American Amy Frazier in the other semifinal.

In the final set, Sabatini found herself trailing Sugiyama 3-5 and just two points away from elimination.

"She just went for the shots. I was surprised by the way she played — her ground strokes are very, very good," Sabatini said.

But the gritty game of the unheralded Sugiyama fell apart as she succumbed to a bout of nerves, double faulted, and let the Argentine back into the game.

Frazier, the seventh seed, beat Japan's Mana Endo 6-2 7-5.

Sanchez Vicario stayed on course for her seventh title of the season.

Her match with Werdel was a far cry from their encounter last month in San Diego in which the American severely extended the world number two in a tight three-set battle.

The difference between that match and today is that I played much more consistently and stronger today than I did in San Diego," Sanchez Vicario said.

The two players slugged it out from the baseline of the sun-drenched centre court, with the 26-year-old Werdel breaking the top seed in the fourth game of the first set.

But Sanchez Vicario broke back immediately and went a break up in the seventh game.

"The first couple of games I had to get used to her shots but I learned a lot from that San Diego match," she said.

## Kafelnikov gives Russia early lead over Germany

### Davis Cup

**HAMBURG, Germany (R)** — Bernd Karpacher was outgunned on his Davis Cup debut by big-hitting Yevgeny Kafelnikov as Russia took a 1-0 lead over defending champions Germany in the opening singles of their semi-final Friday.

Kafelnikov, nicknamed "Kalashnikov" in tennis circles because of his deadly power, came off best 7-6 6-1 2-6 6-4 in a match in which both players made errors on key points.

Kafelnikov's power on the hard court eventually helped him to a victory which put extra pressure on Germany's former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich to make sure of the second singles against Alexander Volkov.

The Germans, who have taken a risk in staging the tie outdoors in September, were delighted to see bright sunshine and blue skies over the Rothenbaum complex for the mid-morning start. The weather is forecast to get worse over the weekend, however.

The home side had also put down a faster hard court on the clay-court surface. But Karpacher and Kafelnikov began their opening singles pinned at the back of the red clay was still on the ground.

The first set was riddled with errors as both players struggled to take the initiative. Karpacher hit a backhand into the net to drop his serve in the fifth game before battling back to break the Russian's serve and level at 4-4.

But when the set went to a tie-break, Karpacher's game fell apart. The German hit a forehand into the net to give

Kafelnikov the tie-break 7-2 after a 54-minute first set.

Kafelnikov seemed to be running away with the match when he raced through the second set 6-1 in just 24 minutes. After dropping his serve in the second game, Karpacher seemed to be overcome by Kafelnikov's power.

But the 26-year-old German found his way back into the match in the third set. A double-fault by Kafelnikov gave the German an early break and a 2-0 lead. The Russian double-faulted again to give the German the set 6-2.

Both players dropped their serve in the early part of the fourth set before Kafelnikov made the key break to lead 3-2. He then served out for the match after two and an half hours when Karpacher hit the ball out of the back of the court.

## Congress urges end to baseball strike

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Major League Baseball owners and players were warned Thursday to settle a strike that cut short this season and cancelled the world series for the first time in 90 years or congress would have to act.

"The parties-in-interest may have run away from their obligations to the fans of the country for a few months but they can't run away from congress for long," said Jack Brooks, chairman of the house of representative judiciary committee.

Brooks delivered his message to acting commissioner Bud Selig and players' negotiator Donald Fehr at a hearing.

"We in congress must now step up to the plate," he said.

The players went on strike August 12 to protest a plan by owners to impose a cap on salaries. The owners last week cancelled the rest of the regular season, and the post-season playoffs and World Series matching the champions of the American and national leagues.

It was the eighth time in the last 22 years that play has been stopped by a labour dispute and the first time since 1904 that the World Series will not be played.

"I think both sides have acted like spoiled children," said Oklahoma Democrat Mike Synar, while New York Republican Hamilton Fish told Selig and Fehr, "It is not just your game, the game belongs to all Americans."

Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Orel Hershiser, testifying for the players, said, "I can assure you we would prefer to be playing baseball rather than appearing before this committee."

Hershiser said the players wanted congress to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption, granted by the supreme court in 1922, so they would have equal rights with other U.S. professional athletes to take labour disputes to court. Some committee members agreed.

"By doing nothing, we are allowing the owners a special entitlement," Colorado Democrat Patricia Schroeder said.

Brooks, a Texas Democrat, said he would support Synar's ending baseball's antitrust exemption.

He said the bill might not pass before congress adjourns for the year next month, but there would be time to act next year if the strike was threatening the 1995 season.

I would remind the parties that the (next) congress is scheduled to convene before spring training begins and well before the scheduled season opening on April 2," Brooks said.

## No positive dope tests at world championships

**LAUSANNE (R)** — The International Swimming Federation (FINA) said Friday 169 dope tests were conducted at this month's world championships in Rome and none were positive.

Coaches highlighted widespread concern about drugs in swimming at the end of the 11-day championships, saying doping threatened the future of the sport.

"The apparent re-emergence of performance enhancing drugs, especially in women's competition, constitutes the single greatest threat to the progress and integrity of our sport," coaches and team managers from 18 nations said in a statement.

The women's events were dominated by China, who won 12 of the 16 women's swimming titles and broke five world records in the process.

The coaches made no specific reference to China in their Rome statement and Canada's Dave Johnson said doping was a world problem.

At the preceding world championships in Perth in January 1991, the Australian sports drug agency said 128 tests had been conducted, including 50 on medallists.

"FINA intends to continue the fight against doping both in and out of competitions."

At the preceding world championships in Perth in January 1991, the Australian sports drug agency said 128 tests had been conducted, including 50 on medallists.

Four Chinese women swimmers, three of them in-



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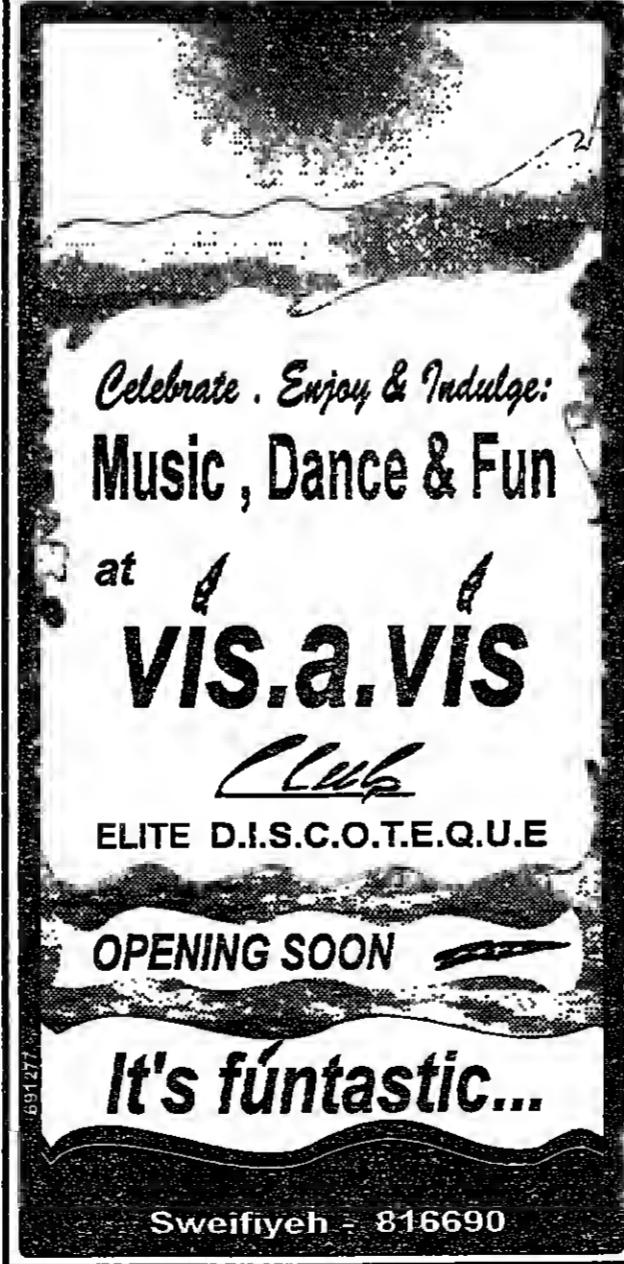
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<b>TO DAY</b>	Cinema <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Tel.: 634144	Cinema <b>PLAZA</b> Tel.: 699238	Cinema <b>CONCORD</b> CONCORD "1" For those with strong hearts Alice Kreig in The Sleeping Monster Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Cinema and Theatre <b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b> Tel.: 618274 - 618275 Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's <b>AHLAN THEATRE</b> Tel.: 625155 Presents: The political satire: <b>Al Salam Ya Salam</b> Daily at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday is the theatre's holiday
	<b>CARLITO'S WAY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Thursday, Friday & Sunday for children The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.	Diane Keaton in <b>Baby Boom</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CONCORD "2"</b> LAMBADA Shows: 3:30, 5:10		

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## King, Queen attend horse show

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Friday attended part of the activities of the Fifth International Arabian Horse Show held at the Royal Stables. King Hussein distributed trophies and medals to winners in competitions. Her Royal Highness Princess Iman Bint Al Hussein took the first place in the youth showjumping competition and second in the kangaroo rider competition. The activities of the day were also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, president of the Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, and several members of the royal family and officials. The five-day championship started Tuesday.

## Police believe Palestinian killed woman

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Jewish woman found dead in her apartment on Friday is believed by police to have been killed by a Palestinian. Natasha Ivanova, a 30-year-old immigrant from Russia, was found in her bedroom in the coastal town of Ashdod after police had been tipped off by a man claiming to have murdered her in the name of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, deputy commander Tzafir Nir told Israeli Television. He would not release details of the killing.

## Police uncover tunnels in Gaza

RAFAH (AP) — Palestinian police closed down 11 tunnels used as underground routes between Gaza and Egypt to smuggle weapons, drugs and activists on the run from Israeli authorities. Palestinian police commander Nasr Yousef told reporters that drugs had been discovered and smugglers networks broken up. "We are using an iron fist against all those who pose a threat to our security," he said. Palestinian underground activists constructed the tunnels as escape routes to Egypt during the six-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Some tunnels stretch several hundred metres from the centre of Rafah across the frontier into Egypt, police sources said.

## Al Islah party elects council

SANA (AFP) — The Muslim fundamentalist party Al Islah, one of three parties forming Yemen's ruling coalition, Friday elected a 100-member consultative council at a general congress here, delegates said. The party's chief ideologist Sheikh Abdul Majid Zindani was among those elected, gaining more than 2,000 votes. He is one of the five members of Yemen's ruling presidential council. The consultative council, or majlis shura, is due to elect a 15-member political bureau to steer the party before the congress ends Saturday. Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar was given a new four-year mandate as party leader Wednesday, a day after the congress opened.

## Opposition paper published in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The first Palestinian newspaper to align itself with the opposition to the peace process appeared in the Gaza Strip on Friday, with the blessing of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "Palestine," published by a journalist associated with the Hamas fundamentalist group, featured an interview with a Hamas man on the run from the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and a report on crime in the streets of Gaza. The tabloid, which intends to move from weekly to daily frequency soon, also covered more sensational stories, like that of a father accused of killing his newborn daughter because she was not born a boy. The opinion page featured pro- and anti-peace agreement editorials.

## Too many foreign workers in Lebanon — Hrawi

BEIRUT (AFP) — President Elias Hrawi said Friday there were too many foreign workers in Lebanon and they were taking more than \$1 billion out of the country each year. "It is unacceptable that there are 760,000 of them (out of a population of three million) and they are taking \$1.2 billion a year out of the country in foreign currency," Lebanese newspapers quoted Mr. Hrawi as saying during a meeting with the head of the journalists' union. "There is not a single building site without foreign workers. All domestic workers are foreigners and not one Lebanese wants to do the job." He said the Lebanese thought such work was humiliating or dirty.

## Aziz to meet Arab League chief

CAIRO (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz is to meet the Arab League chief, Esnat Abdul Meguid, in New York to seek the organisation's help in lifting the U.N. embargo. Arab diplomats here said Friday. "The possibility of an Arab League initiative aimed at alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people and lifting the embargo against Iraq ... will be at the centre of this meeting," said one diplomat, asking not to be named. The meeting, at the request of Mr. Aziz, was to take place on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, which opened on Tuesday. The diplomats gave no date for the encounter.

## Palestinians get 6 million ECUs in aid

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The European Union on Thursday formally allocated the equivalent of some \$7.5 million in loans for various projects in the autonomous Palestinian territories of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the Palestinian JMCC news agency said. The loans of some \$6 million European Currency Units (ECUs) is part of an overall \$80 million ECU package approved in principle three years ago. The loans will be granted to four Palestinian credit companies which are to invest in agricultural, technical education and other projects.

## Israeli police prepare for Haiti mission

BEIT DAGON (R) — Thirty Israeli police officers received pistols, pills and flak jackets on Thursday in preparation for their departure to Haiti, where they will join a U.N.-sanctioned multinational force. "You will need to draw on your sensitivity and experience," Israeli Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz told the group at a ceremony near Tel Aviv. "The aim of the force is to supervise (Haitian police). It is not structured for confrontations." Their departure on Sunday will mark the first time Israel has sent police on an overseas mission. The officers, including two women, were issued Israeli-made Jericho pistols, pills against tropical diseases and flak jackets. Gabi Amit, former Israeli prisons commissioner, heads the group, which is scheduled to spend up to three months in Haiti.

## Rabin hit by egg in town near Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was hit on the hand by an egg thrown Thursday by ultra-orthodox demonstrators in the town of Roch Ha Aym near Tel Aviv, police said. Mr. Rabin had come to receive an honorary citizenship in the town but about 100 radicals who follow Rabbi Uzi Mechoulam met and insulted him. The rabbi has been in prison for several months. One demonstrator threw an egg at the prime minister. In the melee, a member of Mr. Rabin's entourage Shimon Sheves, director general of his office, was slightly wounded in the head by a firecracker, police said. Rabbi Mechoulam was arrested after holing up with several of his faithful in a house in Roch Ha Aym to call for an investigation into the disappearance of Jewish Yemenite children whom he said were kidnapped from their families in the early 1950s to be placed in the families of Jews from Europe.

## Serbs attack U.N. despite NATO strike

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces have increased attacks on U.N. peacekeepers since North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes destroyed a Serb tank in the weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo, U.N. spokesman Tim Spicer said on Friday.

U.S. A-10 Warthog tank buster planes and British Jaguar bombers hit the T-55 tank on Thursday after a series of Serb attacks on U.N. soldiers and vehicles.

The Bosnia Serb (BAS) command, which earlier claimed to have complied with a U.N. order to remove banned heavy weapons from the zone immediately threatened retaliation, "the time and place of which will be set in the future."

Mr. Tim Spicer said the BAS followed up with more attacks after the air strike but described the overall military situation as stable.

"After the (air) attack, the direct targeting of the U.N. by the BAS has increased in the Gorazde pocket (east of Sarajevo)," he told reporters. "Sector southwest and Bihać (northwest Bosnia)

have also seen some provocations."

The air strike was the first for several weeks and followed growing frustration over the Serbs' blatant flouting of the ban on artillery, tanks and heavy mortars on civilians.

This culminated in a heavy casualty toll at the weekend in the worst Serb shelling of mainly-Muslim Sarajevo since February when the exclusion zone was imposed. Two people died and 18 were wounded.

French General Andre Souhiro authorised the attack after the Serbs hit a French U.N. armoured vehicle and seriously wounded the driver who was evacuated to Paris for treatment.

Gen. Souhiro said he was "very happy because the man survived ... he is a very lucky man."

The U.N. gave the BAS two days' notice of possible air attack and 30 minutes warning of the warplanes' arrival "so there would be no human casualties." The tank was thought to have been unmanned when it was blown apart.

Although Russia, a member of the big power contact group which has drawn up a peace plan for Bosnia, has criticised NATO air intervention before, it backed the latest attack.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said U.N. peacekeepers, who include Russian troops, had to be defended with all possible means and added:

"The Muslims are resorting to provocative acts, to attacks. But the Bosnian Serbs, as always, are reacting inappropriately, overdoing it substantially."

Mr. Kozyrev's remarks were further evidence of his impatience with the hardline Bosnian Serbs who are undermining Russian peace-making designed to re-establish Moscow's international diplomatic clout.

A Western diplomat in Zagreb discounted the BAS threat to retaliate against the U.N. saying: "The past evidence shows that the Serbs are rather scared of NATO."

Other analysts dismissed the U.N.'s new toughness as "to little, too late." They doubted whether it would have a lasting effect on the Bosnian Serbs who have re-

acted a big power peace plan that would force them to disgorge war conquests.

Residents of Sarajevo, where 10,000 people have been killed under 29 months of siege by the better armed Serbs, praised NATO but called for even sterner action.

Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic said the air strike was "good but not good enough ... the international community should not play tit-for-tat with the Serbs but hit them in such a way that they do not dare attack U.N. soldiers again."

City policeman Sefik Dautovic told Reuters: "It was about time the U.N. got serious and showed they are really with the people of Sarajevo, not just passive observers who are counting the shells."

The United Nations said that its forces had been attacked 15 times before the NATO strike on Thursday.

This is the greatest number of deliberate attacks against the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in a 24-hour period, observers said.

Aid flights suspended into Sarajevo before the NATO

warplane attack will resume on Saturday morning if sponsor countries feel it is safe enough to fly in, U.N. relief officials said.

The airbridge is the only means of regular supply for the city.

Spokesman Kris Janowski for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the situation in Sarajevo was already "extremely difficult" after nine days without electricity, water and gas supplies.

The former Associated Press chief Middle East correspondent is staying in U.S. Federal District Court to gain access to the documents, naming the CIA, the FBI, State Department and other agencies. Mr. Anderson told reporters that he has filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for government documents, but many of the documents he has received are so heavily censored as to be useless. He showed letters from government agencies telling him all the information should remain secret and he needs the notarised signatures of his captors, the Islamic Jihad or Hezbollah, before he can obtain any information on them because of U.S. privacy laws.

"Who am I supposed to call to get that?" he asked. "Their public relations department?" He has published a book about his experience, *Den of Lions*, while working at Columbia University's Freedom Forum media studies centre. Mr. Anderson was abducted after playing tennis on March 16, 1985 and released in December 1991 after protracted negotiations, marking the end of a spate of kidnapping dramas that began in 1983. Seventeen Americans as well as a number of Europeans were held hostage by pro-Iranian factions.

## Briton jailed for killing stepmother

MONTAUBAN, France (AFP) — A Briton who killed his stepmother with blows from a pickaxe handle was jailed for eight years for manslaughter by the assize court here. Trevor Hollett, a 29-year-old farmer from Caze-Mondonard, near Castelnau-rasin in the Tarn-Et-Garonne Department, south-western France, had never accepted his father's remarriage, his lawyer told the court. The jury did not accept the charge of premeditated murder, as asked by the prosecution, when it handed down its sentence Tuesday. The defence said Hollett, whose mother died when he was 13, could not stand his stepmother, Patricia Hollett, 45, "running his private life" and constantly accusing him of laziness.

## Chillies cure for baldness is a load of hot air

ROME (R) — Italy's balding masses are being scalped by charlatans whose "miracle cures" for hair loss are nothing but a load of chillies; a skin expert said Wednesday. "The methods used include lotions made from chillies distilled water," said Fulvio Allegra, a dermatologist at Parma University. He said people should sue tricksters whose treatments did nothing but turn their skin red. Dr. Allegra estimated that about 10,000 Italian men, many of them under 30, are drawn to hair replacement centres each year by advertisements promising miracle cures with a price tag of over two million lire (\$1,300). "It's not that Italian men are more vain than men in other countries, just a bit more naive," Dr. Allegra told Reuters. He said chillie peppers would not do any damage to the skin, but they would certainly not make hair grow back. "The best thing to do with chillies is to put them in pasta with a bit of oil and garlic — not on your head," Dr. Allegra said.

Netanyahu proposes 'strategic consensus' to Jordan

## The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL and Jordan should reach a "strategic consensus" opposing a PLO state or a confederation of the territories with Jordan, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu suggested to Crown Prince Hassan at Wednesday meeting in London.

In a phone interview, Netanyahu refused to characterise Prince Hassan's reaction to the idea. He would only say, "It was a very warm meeting. There were quite a few areas in which we saw eye-to-eye."

The first public meeting between a high-ranking Jordanian and Likud official lasted approximately three hours and took place at the Jordanian ambassador's London residence.

"I made it clear that I view Palestinian statehood as a

threat to both Israel and Jordan," Netanyahu said. He said a strategic consensus between the two could be broadened to include other Arab countries, as well as non-Arab states like Turkey.

Netanyahu's proposal follows a letter he wrote to King Hussein at the time of the breakthrough between the two countries in July, excerpts of which were obtained by the Jerusalem Post.

"It is impossible ... to envision a durable solution to the dispute over (the territories) that does not address the national interests of both Jordan and Israel," Netanyahu wrote. "I do not believe that we should rush in to impose solutions like confederation which would be inimical to our interests.

"Instead, we must patiently build from the ground up a new reality that would encourage peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews from the territories — and ensure the security so vital for our countries and without which a stable peace cannot endure."

Netanyahu said he told Prince Hassan that he viewed the "continuity of the Hashemite Kingdom as a vital Israeli interest," noting how King Hussein has taken a "responsible" stance towards Israel over the last two decades.

When asked if this contradicts his past public statements declaring "Jordan is Palestine," Netanyahu said those statements were "descriptive and not prescriptive. I cannot determine what government Jordan, by my perspective, would be the Hashemites' given their track record toward Israel.

Rahman's sister had "played a crucial role since 1989 in financing members of the organisation."

There were no immediate details on where the sheikh's sister is now, but her brother is due to face charges with 12 others of preparing a series of attacks in New York when a trial opens on Dec. 5.

The three arrested men, including a Palestinian, are accused by Egyptian authorities of involvement in April's murder of the deputy head of state security services, General Rauf Khairat, the source said.

In April, Sheikh Abdul Rahman was sentenced in his absence by a Cairo high court to seven years of hard labour for leading a violent anti-government protest in 1989 in Faiyum, southwest of Cairo.

He has lived in the United States since 1991.

Key suspects in the 1992 bombing of the World Trade Centre, which killed six people and left more than 1,000 injured, worshipped at the cleric's mosque in New Jersey.

Hamas' spokesman, Mr. Nasr, said his group had been transmitting information to Jihad members in Egypt from Jihad leader Thawar Selah, an Egyptian under a death sentence passed in absentia.

Mr. Selah was convicted in November 1993 attempt on the life of Egypt's prime minister, Atef Sedki, in which an 11-year-old school girl was killed and 18 people were wounded.

A sister of the blind Islamic cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman has been financing activists of Al Gammai group since 1990, a legal source charged Friday.

Police uncovered Hamida Abdul Rahman's role in bucking the Gammai after arresting three of its armed wing, the source added.

The exiled sheikh, currently awaiting trial in the United States, is the spiritual leader of the Gammai.

He denied a report in the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat that they were

being investigated for "receiving orders" from a Jihad leader based in Yemen.

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